



General Session 1

Connect & Cultivate

Just like sports history, God is writing a greater story through you, one not measured by **scoreboards**, but by **faithfulness**.

1. CONNECT: Our Identity Comes From the Vine, Not the Jersey

Jerseys are achieved through **striving**; salvation is received by **grace** (Ephesians 2:8–9).

We don't earn a spot on God's team—we answer His **call**.

Jesus is:

- The Bread of **Life** (John 6:35)
- The Light of the **World** (John 8:12)
- The Good **Shepherd** and the **Gate** (John 10:11)
- The Resurrection and the **Life** (John 11:25)
- The Way, the **Truth**, and the Life (John 14:6)
- The True **Vine** (John 15:1–5)

Apart from Christ, we can do **nothing**—but connected to Him, we belong to one **team**, one **Coach**, one **mission**.

Connection happens daily through **The Word**, **Prayer** and **Worship**.

When we stay **connected**, His strength flows through us to the **world**.

2. CULTIVATE: Growth Comes Through Pruning, Not Comfort

God cultivates us as the **Vinedresser**.

John 15:2 says God prunes **fruitful** branches so they produce **more** fruit.

Pruning is **painful**, **confusing**, and often **unseen**—but **purposeful**.

In hard seasons, we go to the **Word**, not the **world**.



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The Word provides:

- **Peace** under pressure
- **Wisdom** for decisions
- **Strength** in temptation
- **Security** in doubt

God's people learned to **abide** even when they didn't understand His "**why**."

Like an olive tree, the best fruit comes through **shaking**, **pressing**, and **refining**.

The result is pure **oil**—that keeps the **lamp** burning.

3. COMPETE: We Play for an Audience of One

When we remain in Christ, how we **live** changes:

We choose to:

- **honor** others
- **Serve** teammates
- **Encourage** instead of tearing down
- Compete with **integrity**
- Give our **best** even when no one is watching

Great teams **elevate** others.

Great disciples **finish** well.

We run with:

- **Grit** – enduring through hard seasons
- **Grace** – received from God and extended to others
- **Gratitude** – thankful for every opportunity and breath



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The Real Win

Not trophies or stats, but whether we:

The true victory is this:

- made **Jesus** known?
- carried His **name** well?
- lived the life He **called** us to live?

That's **legacy**.

That's **victory**.

We don't play for victory—we play **from** it. Jesus already **won**.

Remain in the **Vine**.

Let Him **cultivate** you.

And watch Him write **history** through your life.