

**A DEEPER CONNECTION TO JESUS (REVISITED):  
A CHRISTIAN MANIFESTO AGAINST TRYING HARDER**

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If \_\_\_\_\_ isn't the answer, then what is?

The Father is the \_\_\_\_\_

- he prunes with \_\_\_\_\_
- he prunes with \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperate with the \_\_\_\_\_

The Son is the \_\_\_\_\_

- he is the \_\_\_\_\_
- he is the \_\_\_\_\_
- he is the \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperate with the \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_

- he's with you and \_\_\_\_\_ you
- he's a \_\_\_\_\_ (coach)
- he's a reminder

Cooperate with the \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. When it comes to my relationship with Jesus, I currently feel (pick one and explain): Very close, somewhat close, distant.
2. The speaker contended that "trying harder" to be a better Christian is not the answer. Fill in the blanks: This makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_? This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Listening activity (this will take about 10 mins). Either have people read out loud or use an audio Bible. Listen to all of John 14-16 without stopping. Then discuss this question: What stuck out to you as you listened? Each person share one thing.
4. What does it look like for a person to cooperate with the Father's pruning? Can you think of examples of when you've been cooperative or uncooperative?
5. What does it look like for a person to cooperate with the Son's invitation? Can you think of examples of when you've been cooperative or uncooperative?
6. What does it look like for a person to cooperate with the Spirit's help? Can you think of examples of when you've been cooperative or uncooperative?
7. What are the main differences between "trying harder" and "cooperation"? As a group, try to come up with at least three.
8. When it comes to cooperating with the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in your life, what's your next step?

**Prayer Prompt:** Spend a few minutes thinking through some highs and lows of 2021. When did you feel closest to God? When did you feel farthest away from God? What do you need from God in 2022? Share with the group your answers, and then pray for each other based on your responses. (Note: You can also do this for the past month, week, or 24 hours if a shorter time window is preferred).