

# The True Vine

## Lesson 1

## John 15:1-11

**Ask: What was a difficult time in your life through which you learned something important?**

### Opener

Sometimes there are times in our lives when God uses a difficult moment to grow us spiritually. Maybe because of this problem, we have more faith, or we learned how to follow God more faithfully.

### Scripture

**John 15:1-4**

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”**

Jesus is talking about himself. Jesus wants to teach his disciples what should happen after we accept Christ. When we accept Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit and God begins to change our lives.

### Discussion

**Ask: If Jesus is the vine, and God is the gardener, who are the branches?**

We are the branches in Christ through faith. If we are in Christ, we should bear fruit.

**Ask: What is the fruit that we should give?**

**Read Galatians 5:22-23 – What is the fruit of the Spirit?**

The fruit is Godly characteristics that result in obedience to God

**v. 3**

The moment that we repent and confess that Christ is our Lord and Savior, we are cleansed from our sin. We can be sure of our salvation. In the previous verse, Jesus says that to those who do not bear fruit, he cuts them off. This does not mean that we lose our salvation. However, when Jesus comes into our lives, a change takes place. We no longer want to be obedient to our desires and sins, rather more than anything we want to be obedient to Christ because we understand the love that he has for us.

2 Corinthians 5:20 says, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” God wants us to testify about his love to other people.

For this reason, we should bear fruit, which is living a life pleasing to God so that other people can know him, too.

**v. 4**

**Ask:** Can we bear fruit by ourselves?

No. Our ability to bear fruit and to live lives pleasing to God comes from God and his power to change our lives. We cannot change ourselves without Him.

**John 15:5-8**

**“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”**

As we have studied before, God is active and alive in us. Our fellowship with God and the study of His Word is food for our spiritual lives. Just like a baby needs milk to grow and we need water to survive, our spiritual lives dry up apart from God.

**v. 7**

**Ask:** Does this verse say that we can ask for a new car and we will receive it if we have accepted Christ?

Of course not. When we remain in Christ, we are going to understand that the things that God wants for us are the best. Through our fellowship with God, we are going to know His will for our lives. Then when we pray and ask Him, we will ask according to His will.

**v. 8**

If we remain in Christ, God will be glorified and others will know Him because we are showing them that God is the Lord of our lives.

**John 15:9-11**

**“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”**

When we remain in Christ, we can understand the love that God has for us. He loves us more than any other person that we will ever meet. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” We can trust that the will of God for our lives is the best plan...a better life than we can imagine.

God wants us to remain in Him and obey Him, not because he wants to limit the fun that we have, but so that we will have complete joy. Many times we imagine that God is like a person that does not want us to enjoy life. We think that the commandments in the Bible are like rules that restrict us from doing the things that we want to do. But it is not like this. God wants us to have an abundant life. (John 10:10) And He knows that many of the things that we want to do will only hurt us. He wants to take away those things because he doesn’t like it when we hurt ourselves.

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**Application**

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Sometimes we do not realize the complete love that God has for us. Can you think of a time in your life when you doubted the love of God?

How can we bear more fruit in our lives?

What are areas of your life in which you need to be more obedient and faithful?