

JOHN 15-16

April 7, 2021

1. Read John 15:1-11. How are Jesus and God the Father identified in verse 1?

Describe the responsibilities of the gardener or vinedresser from verse 2.

Pruning by the Master Gardener means removing things that hinder or drain our spiritual life. Think back to a season of “pruning” in your life. What are some lessons you learned?

2. The word *abide* or *remain* is used 11 times in John 15. List the benefits of abiding or remaining in the True Vine from verses 3-11.

Write down words that describe a branch that is no longer connected to the vine.

The Scriptures describe fruit as godly attitudes and behaviors. List some fruits that grow in our lives as we deepen our connection to the True Vine. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Philippians 1:9-11.

3. Read John 15:12-17. In verse 12, Jesus issues a command to His followers. What is His standard for love?

According to Jesus, what is the greatest sacrifice love can make?

How does obeying Jesus’ command and example affect our relationships with others?

How does it affect our relationship with Him?

4. Describe the way we become friends with Jesus from verses 14-16.

For what purpose did He choose us?

5. In John 15:18-25, Jesus gives insight into the worldview of those who reject Him. Describe the world's feelings for Jesus and how it affects everyone who follows Him.

Who else is hated along with Jesus and His followers according to verse 23?

6. Jesus knows He will be leaving the world and His disciples. What is His plan to continue to spread the truth of the gospel after His death and why are the disciples able to take part?
Read John 15:26-27.

7. Read John 16:1-4. What reason does Jesus give for sharing with His disciples the stark reality of the world's rejection?

What does the future hold for those who believe in Jesus? Why?

Do the words of Jesus help you prepare for hard times as a believer? How?

8. As you read John 16:4b-15, picture the disciples as Jesus tells them about His departure. What words describe their feelings?

What encouragement does Jesus give them?

The Helper or Counselor is the Holy Spirit. Look back at verses 8, 13-14, and write down the work of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promises to His disciples.

9. Read John 16:16-24. How does verse 16 depict Jesus' future? See John 19:18, 30 and John 20:19.

Compare the world's reaction to His death with the reaction of Jesus' disciples.

What will change the disciples' reaction from sorrow to joy?

10. Read John 16:25-33. Following Jesus' resurrection, the disciples' relationship with God the Father will change. What has brought them into a personal relationship with God the Father?

11. The disciples express their belief in verses 29-30. Of what are they now convinced?

Although His beloved disciples express belief, Jesus knows their faith will not be complete until after His resurrection. Read Zechariah 13:7. How is John 16:32 a fulfillment of Zechariah's words?

12. Jesus' words to His disciples are meant to sustain and prepare them. What encouragement do you glean from John 16:33?

How does abiding in the True Vine sustain and prepare you to remain in the world until Jesus returns?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Abiding and Remaining

John 15-16

Jesus, the True Vine

15:1-2

The Garden and the Gardener

- Israel was God's chosen vine, but they had become diseased and corrupt.
- As the True Vine, Jesus brings fulfillment to God's desire for a spiritual vineyard.
- God the Father is the gardener that oversees the spiritual vineyard.
- The Divine Gardener cuts and prunes the branches to produce a healthy crop.

Abiding in the True Vine

15:3-26

The Fellowship and the Fruit

- Abiding in Jesus means purposefully pursuing a deep, nourishing relationship with Him.
- Spiritual fruit of righteousness and holiness grows from our connection to the True Vine.
- Humble self-sacrifice for others is Jesus' standard for love.
- Those whom Jesus calls His friends obey His command to love as He loves.

The Fallout and the Future

- Just as the world hates Jesus, they will hate His followers.
- No longer does the world have an excuse for sin if they willfully reject Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus will send from the Father, will spread the Gospel.
- Along with the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples would also be His witnesses.

Be intentional!

Abide in the True Vine through knowledge of His _____, intimate prayer, humble _____, and sacrificial love for others.

Remaining in the World after His Death

16:1-33

Confidence and Conviction

- Jesus shares truth with His disciples so they will not fall away when persecuted.
- His departure dispatches the Holy Spirit as the disciples' Helper.
- The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin and speak truth to His disciples.

Tribulation and Triumph

- The coming resurrection would turn the disciples' anguish to rejoicing.
- His disciples will desert Him when He is arrested.
- Despite the evil and darkness existing in the world, Jesus is the Victor!

Be courageous!

As we remain in the world _____ in Him, we live every day in the victory Jesus has won for us.

JESUS the WORD – John 15-16

April 7-8, 2021

PSALM 80:8-9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

JEREMIAH 2:21 Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?

COLOSSIANS 3:16a Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.

1 JOHN 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

JAMES 2:23 [A]nd the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

ROMANS 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

JOHN 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

JOHN 9:22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

ACTS 7:58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

ROMANS 6:9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

ROMANS 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.