



Leader's Guide Back To Our Root

John 15:1-6





"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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.

⁵ "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. ⁶ 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.

Review:

Setting? Maundy Thursday. Recount: Jesus has washed his disciples' feet, given them the new covenant (Love one another). Judas has left them, so the faithful, dear 11 are with Jesus. In a matter of hours, he'll be in the Garden of Gethsemane.

1. In these verses, Jesus pictures his relationship with his disciples. Identify:

-  Vine
-  Branch
-  Fruit
-  Gardener

2. Does an adjective jump out at you in verse 1? [*There are certainly many vines that people connect themselves to. Such as?*]

3. Scan the verses above for yourself. Underline or note repetition of words. [*vine, branch, (fruit), REMAIN*]

4. How do Christians remain in Jesus?

5. What does it mean that Jesus remains in us?

6. Why can't we bear fruit without Christ? [*Last night's study focused on bearing fruit. In the John People's Bible, Gary Baumler says, "We need Jesus if we will do anything God-pleasing."*]

7. In real life, how does Jesus prune "every branch that does bear fruit"?

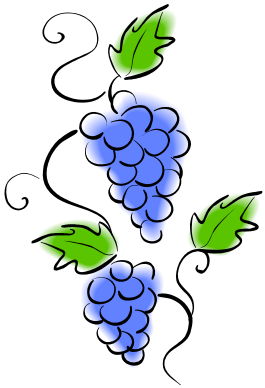
† *1 Peter 1:5-7* *trials...why?*

“We must surely acknowledge him a great master who knows how to employ the devil’s and all the world’s wickedness for the vine’s good and not for its harm and ruin, as these [evil forces] intend.” – Martin Luther

8. What happens if a branch bears no fruit?

9. How does it come about that some people become separated from Jesus?

† *Luke 8:13,14*



Staying Connected to the Root:

1. What is the Word?

† *2 Corinthians 4:6*

† *John 5:39*

† *John 20:31*

2. Why do we need the Word?

📖 *It's how we get to know God*

📖 *It's how God talks to us*

📖 *It's where we receive our motivation for sanctified living...a gardener only prunes living branches*

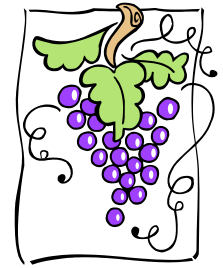


† *Colossians 3:16*

† *Romans 15:4*

† *Matthew 6:33*

† *Matthew 11:28-29*



3. How does our being connected to the vine benefit...

📖 Us?

📖 Our family?

📖 Our personal ministry?

4. How do you struggle to remain connected to the vine?

5. What opportunities do you have to be in the Word?

6. If time allows... *[Leader may defer to end of study]* share some personal gems from the Word.

A Personal Connection...Goal Setting:

Are there some obstacles you've overcome in staying connected to the vine? *[Share successes as a group. Older women, mentor younger. Moms, empathize, encourage each other.]*

What obstacles are you still struggling with? What obstacles do you currently have?	List Possible solutions...ways to overcome those obstacles and improve your "study habits"

Prayer:

Joyful Reminders:

Romans 11:18

¹⁸ do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

† What is the reminder in this verse?

† What is the comfort in this verse?



John 15:7-11

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

1. What great privilege does Jesus say belongs to those who remain in Christ?
2. In light of the context of this verse, what might be some things we should ask for?
3. How does our bearing fruit glorify the Father?
4. How has the Father loved Jesus?
5. How has Jesus loved us?

[The greatest demonstration of love...exactly what he would do the next day! The final verse is so refreshing: Why does Jesus give these directives? Read verse 11 a loud as a group.]