

## Stay Connected to Jesus

**Read:** John 15:1-17

**Main idea:** True disciples of Jesus Christ have a permanent, life-giving, fruit-producing union with their Savior and Lord.

**Key Verses:** “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.” (15:5-6 ESV)

### Key Principles:

- Jesus is preparing His disciples for His upcoming death, resurrection and ascension by explaining what it means to be a true disciple.
- The vine and branch illustration points to the simple truth that being connected to Jesus brings life and that life is revealed by producing righteous fruit.
- The righteous fruit that Jesus describes looks like answered prayer, obedient love, inexhaustible joy and sacrificial love.
- Apart from being connected to Jesus and His life we can accomplish nothing for God
- If there is no fruit, then there is no connection to God through Jesus by the Spirit.
- God does not hide in His children; the evidence of His presence will always be noticeable.

### Discussion:

1. Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the vine and His followers the branches? What does that illustration mean for you and your life?
2. What are some of the forms that spiritual fruit takes in the life of a believer? What fruit is evident in your life?
3. If Jesus is the true vine, what do you think are false vines? How would the world see this as a divisive message?
4. How might God’s commitment to your fruit bearing change how you respond to different events in your life? How can you stay connected to Jesus?
5. What does your prayer life look like today? Are you praying in confidence of answered prayer? Why or why not?
6. What is the difference between obedience to earn love and obedience as the evidence of love? Which option do you find yourself leaning towards?

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would stay connected to Jesus through the Spirit for a fruitful life.
- Pray:
  - That we remember that we can do nothing without the power and presence of God.
  - That we would be obedient to the will of God because of His love for us.
  - That we heed the warning of Christ to bear fruit by sharing the gospel with everyone.

**Stay Connected to Jesus**  
John 15:1-17

- I. You can have a fruitful life. 15:1-6**
  - 1. A life connected to Christ will bear fruit. 15:1-4
  - 2. A life disconnected from Christ will be pruned. 15:5-6
  
- II. You can have an abundant life. 15:7-11**
  - 1. Your prayers will be answered. 15:7
  - 2. Your Father will be glorified. 15:8
  - 3. Your joy will be full. 15:9-11
  
- III. You can have a sacrificial life. 15:12-17**
  - 1. Love sacrificially. 15:12-13
  - 2. Live sacrificially. 15:14-17

NEXT WEEK:  
**Why Does the World Hate Us?**  
John 15:18-25