

WORKOUT

JOHN 15:1-11

Believe
and
LIVE
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Read all of John chapter 15, focusing on verses 1-11.

Ponder the word picture of the vine and branches. What does this mean for the Christian life? What does this reveal about who Jesus is?

- Consider the relationship between Jesus's proclamation, "I am the vine" (15:5) with His previous revelations of Himself, such as, "I am the bread of life" (6:35), "I am the light of the world" (8:12), "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25), and "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6).
- What is the danger of not abiding in the vine? (15:2, 5-6; John 3:18, 27; 6:53)
 - How does this influence the way you walk through your daily life? How does this influence how you approach God's Word? How does this influence the way you think about prayer?
- What does it mean to bear fruit? Consider Matthew 7:15-20, Matthew 13:18-23, Luke 6:43-45, Romans 7:4-6, Galatians 5:22-24, and Colossians 1:3-12.
 - What is the difference between seeing "bearing fruit" as the ultimate goal of the Christian, versus seeing fruit as evidence of abiding (15:5) for the purpose of God's glory (15:8)?
 - In 15:8, Jesus says that the fruit we bear proves that we are His disciples. What other things might you be tempted to rely on to prove that you are (or that someone close to you) is a disciple of Christ?

What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

- Use stepbible.org to do a word study on "abide," then consider the implications of the command to "abide in me" (15:4).
 - Study cross references such as 1 John 2:6; John 6:56; 8:31; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:21-23.
- Why is the idea of "remaining" in Jesus significant for how we think about the Christian life?
- Read John 10:27-30 and remember the truth that Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. If no one can snatch Jesus's sheep from His hand or the Father's hand, what does this mean for our abiding?



Pray Holistically

Read John 15:11 and pray to marvel at the abundant joy that Jesus gives to His people.

- Father, your Word says that if we love you, we will keep your commands (14:15), and if we keep your commands, we will abide in your love. Thank you that in your perfect will, you have told us these things not as a burden (Matthew 11:29-30) but for our joy (15:11).

Pray Personally

Read John 15:5. Pray in thanksgiving for your abiding position in Christ, and for your pursuit to deepen.

- Father, your Word says that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (15:5). It is because of what you have spoken that I am clean, that I am in Christ (15:3). You have saved me, brought me out of darkness and into the kingdom of your beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). Thank you that my position in Christ is secure, because He keeps His sheep (10:28). Help my pursuit of you to deepen as I follow your Word (10:27) and abide in your love (15:9), bearing the fruit that proves I am your disciple (15:8).



Jesus is the vine; whoever believes in Jesus abides in Him. Purpose to pursue abiding deeply in the vine with every moment this week, for "apart from me you can do nothing" (15:5).

- How often do you go through an entire day without thinking about, or acknowledging Jesus as the One who sustains you?
 - Begin every day with prayer and time in the Word. Seek to expand your current practices of these spiritual disciplines. For example, if you currently only read the Bible, add 15 minutes of focused, intentional prayer. If you read for 30 minutes each day, this week set aside 45 minutes.
- What areas of your life feel "separate" from your walk with the Lord?
 - How can you intentionally set your mind to remember that apart from Christ, you can do nothing?
- Whoever abides in Jesus bears fruit (15:5). Read Galatians 5:22-23 and pay attention to the fruit of your life. Is it more aligned with the fruit of the Holy Spirit, or the works of the flesh?