

JESUS is the True Vine

Read John 15:1-8

John 15:5 NIV: "I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me."

After Jesus's resurrection, he appeared to his disciples for another 40 days. After that, he went up into the sky where he is now seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. He'll remain there until he one day returns.

Even though we cannot see Jesus with our eyes today, he wanted us to know that he is still here with us, and that he has not abandoned us. Jesus gave us an example of how he is like a vine, and we are like his branches. Even though we can't see him, he is always there for us if we stay close to him. To stay healthy, branches need to stay attached to the vine.

- According to John 15:5, what benefit is there from remaining joined to Jesus?
- What kind of fruit do you think Jesus is talking about when he says, "you will bear a lot of fruit"?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23 ESV: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."
 - How many different "fruit" are on this list of "fruit of the Spirit"?
 - Which of these "fruit" do you wish the Holy Spirit would grow more of in you, and why?
- According to verse 5, can we bear a lot of fruit without Jesus?
- What are some ways we can stay closely attached to Jesus?

Read Ephesians 3:16-17 NIV: "I pray that he will use his glorious riches to make you strong. May his Holy Spirit give you his power deep down inside you. Then Christ will live in your hearts because you believe in him. And I pray that your love will have deep roots. I pray that it will have a strong foundation."

- According to this verse, who or what helps to keep us strong in Christ?

Read Colossians 2:7 NLT: "Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

- This verse says we should let our roots grow down into Jesus, and to build our lives on him. How can we do that?
- Where do we learn the truth about Jesus?
- According to this verse, what are some benefits of building our lives on Jesus?

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