



Week 1: Intimacy with the True Vine

Opening.

Who is Jesus to you? To Lazarus, Jesus was life. To Mary Magdalene, Jesus was a second chance. To Thomas, Jesus was the answer. To you, Jesus is everything. Jesus said, "I am the vine, and you are the branches." Often, we think of the benefits of being connected to Jesus without much thought about the beautiful intimacy it entails. The fruit is just a product, connection is the heart. The goal of this series is simple, to be more intimate with Jesus.

Scripture. John 15:1-8

Key Question.

- What's one idea from the sermon that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
- What does Jesus mean by saying He is the true vine?
- What false vines might you be attaching yourself to? How has that affected you?
- What is Jesus communicating in verse 6?
- What steps can you take to become more connected to Jesus?
- Getting close to Jesus results in a fruitful life. What are the fruits of intimacy with Jesus?

Read the following and list what you find:

1. Ephesians 5:9
2. Galatians 5:22-23
3. James 3:18
4. Matthew 7:15-20
5. Hebrew 13:15

Application.

- What fruit have you produced as a result of being connected to Jesus?
 1. Fruit of the Spirit (character and relational fruits) in Galatians 5:22-23
 2. Fruit of light (personal holiness) in Ephesians 5:9
 3. Fruit of righteousness (personal witness and justice) in James 3:17-18.
 4. Fruit of discipleship (people following Jesus through your witness) Matthew 7:18-20
 5. Fruit of praise (a life of worship) in Hebrews 13:15.
- Is there anything in your life that often prevents you from producing fruit? If so, what is it and how are you dealing with it?
- Describe a time when you loved like Jesus loves. What did you learn from your experience?
- In what situations do you find it most difficult to love like Jesus loves and why?
- What dead branches from your character has Jesus removed from your life?

Prayer. Is there an area of your life that you need to surrender to God?

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 15

1 *"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, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

6 *If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

7 *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

8 *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*