

Walking With Jesus, the True Vine

Study Guide for Lesson Seven—March 1, 2013

Day One:

"I am Way the True Vine"

Have you felt a sense of 'awe' each week as we have written out these names of God? Here is our final "I Am" from the gospel of John. **Read John 15:5** and write it out here:

The setting for this conversation is still Jesus talking to his disciples the night of the Passover celebration. We have amazing things to uncover regarding the vine; but in preparation let's look again at a few important themes from the beginning of this evening:

About Love:

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: _____. As I have loved you, so you must _____."

About Love & Obedience:

John 14:15 "If you _____ me, you will _____ what I command."

John 14:21 "Whoever has my commands and _____ them, he is the one who _____ me."

John 14:23 "If anyone _____ me, he will _____ my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

John 14:31 "But the world must learn that I _____ the Father and that I _____ exactly what my Father has commanded me."

About Abiding (remaining):

John 15:4-7 "_____ in me, and I will _____ in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must _____ in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you _____ in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man _____ in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not _____ in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you _____ in me and my words _____ in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

John 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now _____ in my love."

Just meditate on those passages today.

Women of the Word is a ministry of Calvary Chapel Ontario



Walking With Jesus, the True Vine

Study Guide for Lesson Seven-March 1, 2013

Day Two:

"I am the True Vine"

Picture a grapevine with branches from which large, sweet clusters of grapes are growing. The stalk of the plant is called the vine, through which flows the living sap, nutrients and water. **Read John 15:1-5** Let's get our thoughts organized:

Who is the vine: _____

Who is the gardener: _____

Who are the branches: _____

Wild vines normally yield small, sometimes dry and sour grapes. Vines that are tended by a good gardener are much more productive. In **v. 2**, Jesus tells us of the necessity of pruning for fruitfulness. Read the following explanation of the pruning process as described in *The Sunset Gardening Book*.

Pruning is both a skill and an art. The skill is in making proper cuts that will heal well. The art is in making cuts in the right places so that the plant will develop its potential beauty or produce an optimum crop. No matter how much or how little pruning you do on an established plant, the objective is to modify the growth of the plant. The modification can be done for any of the following reasons, singly or in combination:

- * to maintain plant health by removing dead, diseased or injured wood;*
- * to control or direct growth;*
- * to increase quality or yield of flowers or fruit.*

Now, applying what you have learned about the pruning process, re-read **v.1-5** and prayerfully ponder and answer the following questions:

What type of branches are pruned?

Why does the Father prune us?

As you read **v.2** again, answer the question "is pruning punishment?" Why do we sometimes feel like it is?



Walking With Jesus, the True Vine

Study Guide for Lesson Seven-March 1, 2013

Day Three:

"I am the True Vine"

Read **John 15:1-8** and this time circle each reference to fruit or fruitfulness. Although it is the pruning process that captures our attention in our personal lives, we must remember the goal is fruit. The FRUIT is the reason a gardener prunes or 'cleanses' the branches.

According to v.4, how does a branch bear fruit in the first place?

According to v.5, what is the quantity of fruit that God desires?

According to v.8, how do we bring glory to God our Father?

Write down at least four things that you would consider to be fruit in a Christian's life.

Things that are the same no matter who you are:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

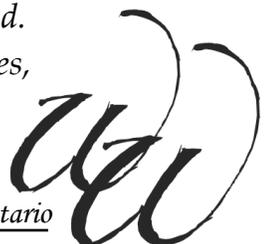
Now, here are a few question/prayers for you to stop and really think about. Read, pray, talk to the Lord and write notes to share.

- "Lord, what kind of **specific** fruit have you been desiring to produce in my life?"
- "Have you been pruning me for that purpose and I haven't been aware, or have been subverting your efforts?"
- "How can I cooperate more fully with your cleansing as the gardener?"

Your Heavenly Father is never nearer to you than when He is pruning you. Sometimes He cuts away the dead wood that might cause trouble; but often He cuts off the living tissue that is robbing you of spiritual vigor. Pruning does not simply mean spiritual surgery that removes what is bad. It can also mean cutting away the good and the better so that we might enjoy the best. Yes, pruning hurts, but it also helps. We may not enjoy it, but we need it.

Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series)

Women of the Word is a ministry of Calvary Chapel Ontario



Walking With Jesus, the True Vine

Study Guide for Lesson Seven—March 1, 2013

Day Four:

"I am the True Vine"

Read **John 15:1-10**. Today we focus on **abiding in the vine**. The NIV calls it **remaining**—I rather like the poetic sound of abiding so I think we'll use that word today! John uses abide/remain 11 times in these 10 verses. Let's investigate:

1. Look up the meaning of abide in the dictionary. Then explain what abiding in Jesus and Jesus abiding in us means ("remain in my love" in NIV)

2. In general, how can Christians truly abide? (v.10)

3. Specifically, what is the Holy Spirit teaching **you** regarding abiding this week?

Is there an area of obedience that needs to be addressed in your life? Sin that needs to be confessed and turned away from? Please take a few moments to just humble yourself in the presence of the Lord, to press in, to talk and listen and make sure you are firmly connected to the life-giving True Vine!

I Am the True Vine. How does THIS particular name of God affect YOU personally today. How does God Almighty want to relate to you based on THIS name:

