



 **Bible Study Tools**

HOW CAN JESUS' STATEMENT,
“I AM THE VINE”
CHANGE YOUR LIFE TODAY?

A 4 WEEK STUDY

BY REV. KYLE NORMAN

4 WEEK STUDY

01 Why Did Jesus Refer to Himself as the Vine?

02 Jesus, the Source of Life.

03 How Does Jesus Act through Us?

04 Jesus' Life, Poured Out for Us.





WEEK ONE

WHY DID JESUS REFER TO HIMSELF AS THE VINE?

"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." - John 15:5

DAY 1



Write John 15:5 below.

Confession time: My wife and I enjoy the occasional glass of wine. Usually, this is on Sunday evenings after a nice meal. So, for her birthday a few years ago, I decided to take her to her favorite winery. We had a tour of the vineyard and talked with the winemakers. We even walked amongst the vines. It was a lovely trip.

During one of our tours, we learned that the branches closest to the vine were the healthiest on the trellis. This makes sense given that these branches were connected to the source of life; they received the flow of nutrients that moved from the vine. The strength of the branch came from a connection to the vine, and it was this connection alone that fostered the growth of grapes. Our tour guide explained it "The branch has only one job, to remain connected to the vine. It's the vine that does all the work."

REFLECT

What can we learn from the healthiest branched being closest to the vine, in light of Jesus' comparison of a vine to Himself?

DAY 2

In one of his famous "I am" statements, Jesus takes up that image of vine, branch, and grape and applies it to our spiritual lives. "I am the vine, you are the branches," he says, "if anyone would remain in me, they will bear much fruit." By employing this image, Jesus calls the disciples to remain connected to him, just as a branch is to be connected to the vine.



Have you ever wondered why Jesus used this image?

Did Jesus call himself a vine simply because it was a popular image of the day?

Was there a deeper message?

DAY 3

Reading the same Bible verse in different translations and paraphrases of the Bible can give us a broader understanding of the text. Read the following different translations and paraphrases below. Underline anything that stands out to you, and circle the ones that resonate with you the most.

.....

New Living Translation

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."



English Standard Version

"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."

The Voice

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear great fruit. Without Me, you will accomplish nothing."

New King James Version

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

The Message (John 15:5-8)

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples."

Amplified Bible

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."

DAY 4

By calling himself a vine, Jesus reveals important truths about himself.



The OT frequently uses the vineyard or vine as a symbol for Israel, God's covenant people. Note the two "vineyard songs" in Isaiah (Isa. 5:1–7; 27:2–6). However, Israel's failure to produce fruit resulted in divine judgment. Jesus, by contrast, is "the true vine." His followers live in him and produce fruit.

FACT

In 13:31–16:33, Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure from them. This is often called the Farewell Discourse. Jesus shows his disciples that his death and resurrection will bring them blessing.

-ESV Global Study Bible Notes

Truth #1

Jesus discloses his identity as Lord.

Truth #2

He also reveals the truth of his salvific mission.

Truth #3

The language of the vine speaks directly to our call to see Jesus as the source of our life and our salvation.

***"In that day,
sing about the fruitful vineyard.
I, the Lord, will watch over it,
watering it carefully.
Day and night I will watch so no one can
harm it.
My anger will be gone.
If I find briars and thorns growing,
I will attack them;
I will burn them up—
unless they turn to me for help.
Let them make peace with me;
yes, let them make peace with me.'
The time is coming when Jacob's
descendants will take root.
Israel will bud and blossom
and fill the whole earth with fruit!"***

-Isaiah 27:2-6 NLT

DAY 5



Praying Bible verses is powerful and effective. Take a moment to pray John 15:5 over your life. Add your own prayer, based on what you have learned this week. Ask God to help you understand and apply the truth in His Word.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5 NLT

***Jesus,
You are the vine, I am a branch. When I remain in You,
and You in me, my life will produce fruit. For apart from
You, I can do nothing.
-Amen.***

Write your prayer here:





WEEK TWO

JESUS,

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me."

- John 15:4

DAY 1

Every gardener, vinedresser, and winemaker, whether professional or amateur, knows that the most important element for growing grapes is the vine.

The vine contains the life of the grape, carries the nutrients, and provides what the branch needs to produce fruit.

The fundamental question for any branch in a vineyard is,

"Am I connected to the vine?"

.....

WRITE JOHN 15:4

REFLECT

Are you connected to The Vine?



DAY 2

Without a connection to the vine, a branch cannot function in the vineyard. It's not enough to simply be close to the vine. A branch cannot be vine-adjacent; nor can it ever say, "I know about the vine" or "I've looked upon the vine once or twice." The farther away from the vine a branch is, the less healthy it becomes. This same truth applies to our spiritual lives. The farther we are from Jesus, the less spiritually healthy we are.



Reflect on a time in your life when you felt close to Jesus but not necessarily connected to Him.

What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him?

Why is maintaining our spiritual health as important as physical, mental, and emotional health?

DAY 3

When my wife and I were walking amongst the vines, we saw many branches. Some were rooted tightly in the vine and showed evidence of health and vitality. Some branches were connected to the vine via other branches. But then there were the branches on the ground, cut off from the vine itself. At times, these branches were in closer proximity to the vine itself, lying just beside the trunk, Yet these branches had no life within them. They were removed from the source of life.

Read John 15:4 in the following translations and paraphrases. Circle the one that resonates the most and any words or phrases that pop out to you.

.....

New Living Translation

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me."



English Standard Version

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

The Voice

"Abide in Me, and I will abide in you. A branch cannot bear fruit if it is disconnected from the vine, and neither will you if you are not connected to Me."

New King James Version

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

The Message

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me."

Amplified Bible

"Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me."

DAY 4

We are to be connected to Jesus because he is the source of our spiritual life and health. We are not simply to believe in him, read about him, or think upon him; we are to live in him. Our lives are to be intertwined with his, just as a branch is intertwined with the vine.

Jesus calls us to "Abide in me, and I in you" (John 15:4). When our lives are tied to his, Jesus provides vitality to our souls. Jesus is the true vine because he provides life.

"I have come that you may have life, and life in all fullness", Jesus declares (John 10:10).



"The ideas that keep recurring in these chapters are that the disciples must love one another, that they must keep Christ's commandments, that they must abide in Him, that they must expect pruning and persecution, that it was necessary for Jesus to go away, that the Holy Spirit would take His place, that their sorrow would be turned to joy, and that in His absence wondrous answers to their prayers would be granted. The blessed Master going into the depths of His own sorrow and suffering was doing His best to comfort His bewildered disciples." - Halley's Bible Handbook Notes

"Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. 'I'll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.' -John 10:10 - The Message



DAY 5



Praying Bible verses is powerful and effective. Take a moment to pray John 15:4 over your life. Add your own prayer, based on what you have learned this week. Ask God to help you understand and apply the truth in His Word.

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me." - John 15:4 NLT

***Jesus,
Help me to remain in You. Teach me what that means. I
cannot live a fruitful life a part from you.
-Amen.***

Write your prayer here:





WEEK THREE

HOW DOES JESUS ACT THROUGH US?

"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

- John 15:8

DAY 1



When we are connected to Jesus, his life, flowing through us, provides what we need to bear fruit. Jesus says plainly,

"If you abide in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit" (John 15:5).

Furthermore, the fruit of Christian life is to be "fruit that will last" (John 15:16).

Fruit points to our abiding relationship with him, who is the true vine.

Write John 15:8 below.

You didn't choose me.

I chose you.

I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit,

so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for,

using my name."

-John 15:16 NLT

REFLECT

What fruit in your life can you credit to Jesus? And, what fruit would you like to see blossom and multiply in your life?

DAY 2

Importantly, Jesus doesn't disclose what fruit the disciples will produce. Even though he tells them that the Father is glorified when they "bear much fruit" (John 15:8), he leaves the nature of their fruit entirely undefined. The reason for this ambiguity is simple: the fruit of Christian life is not meant to testify to our prowess or ability. We focus not on ourselves but on the power of God working in us and through us. Remember, the branch has one job: to be connected to the vine.



Why did Jesus leave the nature of our fruit undefined?

Even though we aren't always certain what kind of fruit our lives will produce, what do we know?

What is the purpose of the fruit in our lives? How can we be sure to give glory to God when we notice the good fruit He has produced in and through us?

DAY 3

If Christian fruit were just about the actions that we create ourselves, then we would be putting branches before the vine. It would be akin to saying that the branch can produce fruit independently from any connection to the vine. But this is not how vineyards function. Grapes are never produced by the branch's own self-effort. No branch can ever try harder to produce a grape, or simply will the fruit into existence. Rather, grapes are produced by the activity of the vine alone. It is the vine that provides what is needed for the grape to come into existence. In fact, grapes themselves are called "the fruit of the vine", not the fruit of the branch. Grapes bear witness to the vine and vine alone.

Read John 15:8 in the following translations and paraphrases. Circle what resonates with you.

.....

New Living Translation

"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

English Standard Version

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

New King James Version

"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

Amplified Bible

"My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples."



The Voice

"Your abundant growth and your faithfulness as My followers will bring glory to the Father."

The Message

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples."

DAY 4

In a similar way, our lives are to reflect Christ's presence and power. Jesus says,

"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine." -John 15:4



Apart from our connection to Jesus, our spiritual lives lack the health, vitality, and soul-deep satisfaction that Jesus longs for us.

What is more, the fruit of our lives, whether we see that as the acts of ministry or the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:5), points to Jesus' activity in us.

Jesus desires to move in our lives and show his presence through us. Our ministry activities are but manifestations of his presence and power. By calling himself the vine, therefore, Jesus is telling the disciples that he desires to manifest his power through their lives.

***"But we who live
by the Spirit
eagerly wait
to receive by faith
the righteousness
God has promised
to us."***

-Galatians 5:5 NLT

DAY 5



Praying Bible verses is powerful and effective. Take a moment to pray John 15:8 over your life. Add your own prayer, based on what you have learned this week. Ask God to help you understand and apply the truth in His Word.

"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father." - John 15:8 NLT

***Jesus,
Thank You for promising to produce good fruit in my
life by the power of the Holy Spirit living in me because
I belong to You. Glory to God!
-Amen.***

Write your prayer here:





WEEK FOUR

JESUS' LIFE, POURED OUT FOR US.

"As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, 'Take this and eat it, for this is my body.'

And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, 'Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.'"

-Matthew 26:26-28 NLT

DAY 1



The image of Jesus as the vine and we as the branches is popular among Christians today. Yet, because of its popularity, we can easily miss the wider context of this statement. We tend to see this passage in isolation, disconnected from its surrounding context. When we do this, however, we may fail to realize that Jesus says these words in the context of the Last Supper.

Write Matthew 26:26-28 below.

REFLECT

How has your study of Jesus, The Vine, helped you better to appreciate Jesus' words during The Last Supper?

DAY 2

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus shares the Passover meal with the disciples. Many things occur in this evening, all of which are highly meaningful and highly symbolic. Jesus washes the disciples' feet; he gives them bread and wine with the words,

"This is my body, this is my blood."
-Matthew 26:26-28

The scene is familiar to us all.



List the symbolic elements of The Last Supper in Matthew 26:26-28.

What did the cup symbolize?

What does it mean to you that Jesus poured His life out for you?

DAY 3

It is significant that Jesus says this in the context of the Last Supper, just prior to his crucifixion, as the ancient world often referred to wine as "the blood of the vine." Wine, therefore, wasn't just a fermented drink. It was understood to be the life of the vine poured out.

Read Matthew 26:26-28 in the following translation and paraphrases. Circle what resonates with you.

.....

New Living Translation

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."
And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant[a] between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

English Standard Version

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

New King James Version

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."
Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Amplified Bible

Now as they were eating Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the [new and better] covenant, which [ratifies the agreement and] is being poured out for many [as a substitutionary atonement] for the forgiveness of sins.

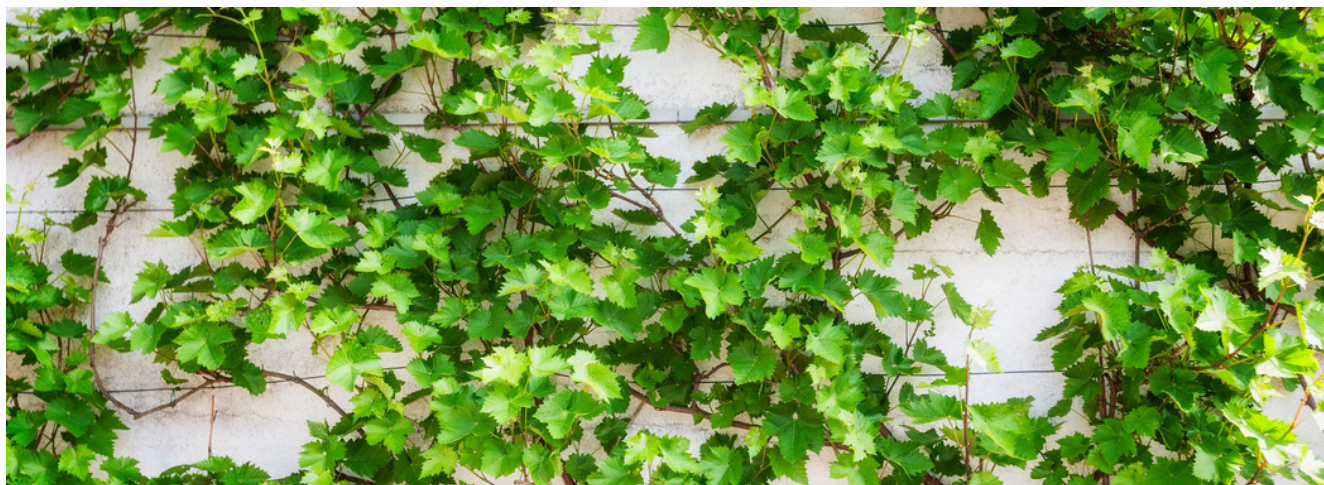
The Voice

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He offered a blessing over the bread, and then He broke it and gave it to His disciples.

Jesus: Take this and eat; it is My body.

And then He took the cup of wine, He made a blessing over it, and He passed it around the table.

Jesus: Take this and drink, all of you: this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.



The Message

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples: Take, eat.

This is my body.

Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you,
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I'll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I'll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

God's new covenant poured out for many people

DAY 4

The language of "vine" points to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Just as the vine "bleeds," so too would Jesus bleed for his disciples. This act alone reveals his Lordship and testifies to him being the "true vine."



The picture of attachment to Jesus as a branch is attached to a vine is an apt description of the interior spiritual life ... Here, however, the key word is "remaining" or "abiding," which is used throughout the discourse. The growing disciple in whom the Father and Son live through the Spirit is one whose life is utterly dependent on Christ. Discipleship is not just a matter of acknowledging who Jesus is; it is having Jesus spiritually connected to our inner lives.
-NIV Application Commentary

John 15:5

"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."

John 15:4

"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."

John 15:8

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

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,

"Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

-Matthew 26:26-28 NIV

DAY 5



Praying Bible verses is powerful and effective. Take a moment to pray Matthew 26:26-28 over your life. Add your own prayer based on what you have learned this week. Ask God to help you understand and apply the truth in His Word.

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."

And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."

Matthew 26:26-28 NLT

Jesus,

Thank You for pouring Your life out for me and

forgiving my sins. I pray my life is full of good fruit that

brings glory to God.

-Amen.

Write your prayer here:



NOTES





Sources:

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