

# “HE DWELT AMONG US”

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 16 Chapter 15

*“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.” John 15:5*

In the **15th chapter** of the Gospel of John, Jesus instructs His disciples on three important relationships. He teaches that we as disciples are to be vitally related to Him (**verses 1-10**), lovingly related to each other (**verses 11-17**), and witnesses to the lost (**verses 26-27**).

He begins by stating, “I am the vine.” This is the last of the seven great “I am” statements in the Gospel of John.

### Jesus’ Seven “I AM’s” in the Gospel of John

1. “I am the Bread of Life.” (6:35)
2. “I am the Light of the World.” (8:12)
3. “I am the Gate for the Sheep.” (10:7)
4. “I am the Good Shepherd.” (10:11)
5. “I am the Resurrection and the Life.” (11:25)
6. “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.” (14:6)
7. “I am the True Vine.” (15:1)

**DAY #1** \*Pray before you start your lesson each day.\*

Read **John 15:1-17**. Read through these verses again, carefully recording the important and basic facts. When you have finished, state the main theme briefly in seven words or less. Give a title to this section.

Theme:

Title:

**DAY #2 Read John 15:1-3 JESUS, THE TRUE VINE**

- 1) 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. In your own words, explain what Jesus meant when He described Himself as a vine and us as branches.
  
- 2) In **verse 1**, Jesus describes Himself as the *true* vine.
  - A. Look up in the dictionary the words *true* and *false*. Write out definitions which show the contrast.
  
  - B. Explain why it is vital that we choose the *true* source of life--Jesus.
  
- 3) Wild vines normally yield small, sometimes dry and sour grapes. Those vines that are tended by a good farmer are much more productive. *Our* farmer (vinedresser, husbandman) is our loving Heavenly Father. List the many things that a farmer does to make the plants more healthy and fruitful. Apply these concepts to your spiritual life.
  
- 4) In **John 15:2**, 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:** 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.

Applying what you have learned about the pruning process, prayerfully ponder and answer the following questions:

- A. What type of branches are pruned? What encouragement and insight do you gain from this?

B. Why does the Father prune us? As you read **verse 2** again, answer the question “is pruning punishment?” Why do we sometimes feel like it is?

C. How does the Father prune us? Use an example.

D. What is the end result in our lives after we are pruned? If possible, explain by sharing a personal experience.

*Those who see God's hand in everything  
can best leave everything in God's hand.*

**DAY #3 Read John 15:4-8**

In **John 15, verses 4 and 5**, Jesus gives us information and instruction that can totally transform our Christian lives if we take heed and obey. Carefully meditate on and respond to the following questions:

- 1) The word abide is used eleven times in **verses 1-11** (King James Version), emphasizing the importance of this concept. Look up the meaning of *abide* in the dictionary. Then explain what *abiding in Jesus* and *Jesus abiding in us* means.
  
- 2) *How can we truly abide?* Explain in as much detail as possible.
  
- 3) Describe the *results* of abiding as they apply to your life? In your answer, contrast the results of *not* abiding.
  
- 4) Explain what bearing fruit unto the Lord means in *your* life. Also read **Galatians 5:22-23**.

5) So often in our Christian life, we try to accomplish service for the Lord or make changes in ourselves with our own strength and resources. We sometimes feel that we should be able to produce within ourselves the godly fruit we long for. This creates frustration and discouragement when we come short. The Lord admonishes us when He says “without Me, you can do nothing” (vs. 5). Our job is to abide in Him. He has every intention of doing the rest. Share how the following scriptures encourage you to learn to lean on and trust *Him* instead of yourself.

A. **II Corinthians 4:7** “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

B. **II Corinthians 12:9-10** “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

C. **Philippians 1:6** “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

6) In **John 15:7**, the disciples were given a promise of answered prayer.

A. What is the condition that this promise is based on as stated in **John 15:7a**?

B. How do you think abiding in Jesus and being full of His Word will affect the type of things that you desire and ask for in prayer?

C. Read **I John 5:14, 15** and share the added insight and encouragement you gain.

D. We occasionally need an *attitude check* regarding the requests we make of God. What do you learn in **James 4:3** regarding this?

**\*DIGGING DEEPER\*** (For those who would like to do additional study.)

In **John 15:8**, Jesus states that bearing fruit glorifies the Father. Find other scriptures in John that tell how God is glorified.

**DAY #4** Read John 15:9-17 “ABIDE IN MY LOVE”

- 1) Describe how we are loved. (**John 15:9**)

*The true measure of God's love  
is that He loves without measure.*

- 2) Read **John 15:10-11**. Often *obedience* and *commandment* are concepts that cause us to feel restricted or controlled. They sometimes cause a negative reaction.
  - A. Share how obedience can be a vehicle to blessing and freedom instead of bondage according to these verses.
  - B. God's greatest commandment: “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*” **Luke 10:27** How does disobedience to His commandments to love rob *us* of joy?
- 3) **\*\*MEMORY VERSE\*\*** Write out **John 15:12** in the space below. Also print this verse on a 3x5 card to carry with you to practice until you have committed it to memory.

*“When we love, the one who is loved changes.  
So do we!” Carolyn Mitchem*

- 4) Read **John 15:12** once again. Share how you can apply it to someone you have had a difficult time loving. Stop and pray right now for the Lord's grace and ability to love. Remember what He told us, “*without Me you can do nothing.*”
- 5) Read **John 15:13-17**. Can you say that Jesus is your best friend and constant companion? Would you like Him to be? Share what this does or can mean in your life.

**DAY #5**

Read **John 15:18-27**. Read these verses again, recording the important facts. When you have finished, state the main theme briefly in seven words or less. Give a title to this section.

Theme:

Title:

**DAY #6**

Read **John 15:18-27**

- 1) Why will we sometimes be rejected and persecuted when we faithfully share God's truth and love?
  
- 2) Read **John 15:22-25**. Why was Jesus persecuted and rejected then and even now? You may use other scriptures from John to support your answer.

3) Jesus informed His disciples that the Holy Spirit, also called the Spirit of Truth and Counselor, would soon come to dwell in them. At this point, they had never experienced this. We are blessed that we have access to His power and ongoing presence in our lives.

A. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from the following verses?

1. **John 15:26**

2. **Acts 1:8**

B. How can the work of the Holy Spirit in your life help and change you if you allow Him control?

5) \*Application\* Review this lesson on the wonderful **15th chapter** of the Gospel of John. Share three things that you desire to apply to your life.

A.

B.

C.

*“In chapter 15, Jesus is the living vine, and we the branches. So the Christian is one whose roots are in Heaven, but the branches fall down to the earth, and from the branches, fruit is provided.” H.A. Ironside*