



Part 7: I AM; The True Vine

Jesus uses a vineyard as an illustration to teach his disciples. This illustration would have resounded with the disciples because in the Old Testament, Israel was often referred to as the vine. The branches depend on the vine for their continued life. But dead, fruitless branches are of little value to the Father. In the Book of John chapter 15, Jesus describes himself as, "The True Vine". Jesus wants us to be as fruitful as his disciples. What can we do to ensure we bear much fruit?

Bottom Line: Jesus is the only source for spiritual life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time you went to a vineyard. What was most memorable about the experience?
2. Have you ever had or tended to a garden? What things did you grow in your garden? How did you take care of your plants to ensure they remained healthy?
3. **Read John 15:1-8.** What does Jesus mean by I AM the true vine? What does it mean to produce fruit, or lasting fruit?
4. **Read John 15:2 & 6 again.** Describe your reaction to these passages. Why are some of the branches cut off and discarded?
5. How has God "pruned" you in order to produce more fruit for his Kingdom? What kind of Kingdom fruit is evident in your life right now?
6. How can we be proactive in examining our own lives for areas God may need to prune?
7. How can you remain connected to Jesus, the True Vine?
8. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
9. How can the group encourage you this week?