



Vine and Branches

Lesson Overview

1. Vine, Grapes, Wine

Jesus and “the vine.”

2. Watch a Video

Watch John 15 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from **2hr 4min 53sec to 2hr 9min 15sec** (4min 22sec).

3. Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

4. Activity

Put the message into simple English.

New Church Concept

Vine and Branches

No one can do what is good from himself, but that he does it from the Lord:

Jesus said, I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, so neither can you except you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he that abides in Me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in Me, he is cast forth into the fire, and burned (John 15:1-6). See *Life 29*



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FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 27 | Gospel of John

Vine, Grapes and Wine

Bring this lesson to life by sharing grapes or grape juice during the discussion.

1. What was Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana? Hint: water pots.
2. What *drink* did Jesus offer His disciples at the Last Supper?
3. Which *food* did Jesus say He was in an “I Am” statement? (bread of life)
4. Which *food* and *drink* are offered during Holy Supper, the most holy act of worship? Why are these particular foods offered? Could other food or drink be offered instead?
5. Jesus’ seventh and final “I Am” statement, “I am the true vine,” is part of His farewell speech to the disciples. What is the relationship between the vine, the grapes and the wine? How might this “I Am” statement change the way the way the disciples thought about Jesus? Does it change the way you think about Jesus?

Watch a Video

Watch The Vine and the Branches, John 15:1-27 from *The Life of Jesus . English . Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start at 2hr 4min 53sec. End at 2hr 9min 15sec;** 4min 22sec. This story takes place after the Last Supper. After giving a message of comfort and consolation in the first part of His farewell speech, Jesus calls the disciples to a full commitment to Him, and warns what will happen if they do not commit.

Note: You may find it helpful to have Bibles open to **John 15** for the discussion.

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. What image does Jesus use to illustrate our complete dependence on Him?
2. Jesus speaks of pruning unfruitful branches. If vine branches were human, how would pruning take place? What pain might be associated with pruning?
3. How does our relationship with the Lord change when we practice His teachings? Are there other ways in which we can achieve the same result?
4. Describe a time when you felt like the Lord was your friend.
5. List the characteristics of someone who is friends with the Lord.
6. What makes the Lord happy? (John 15:11) How can we experience this joy?
7. What is “the world” in us that “hates” the Lord?
8. When might speaking truth and showing love lead to hostility from others?

Express John 15 in Simple English

Activity by Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr. (answers on next page)

Words from John 15	What these words mean to me
I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit....	I am life; _____
These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you , and that your joy may be full.	Everything I teach aims at _____
Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.	One of the most powerful things you can do to receive this happiness is to _____
You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.	I invite you into a _____ with Me, during which we _____.
These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.	In the context of that relationship, I'm going to teach you _____.
I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth....	Figure these things out, try them for a while, and _____.
These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.	In the process, you'll come to see that I am a God of _____...
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.	...and you will have _____.

New Church Concept Farewell Address

Selections from *The Gospel of John* by Rev. Dr. Ray Silverman, unpublished manuscript

The sequence of Jesus' farewell discourse amounts to this: Although Jesus assures His disciples that He will be with them in every way (part one), He lets them know that they should anticipate a severe struggle (part two).

The second part begins with Jesus' declaration that He is the "true vine." "I am the true vine," He says, "and My Father is the vinedresser" (15:1). This is the seventh and final "I Am" statement in the Gospel of John. As with His previous assertions ("I am the bread of life," "I am the resurrection and the life," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life"), it is another bold assertion of His Divinity. By calling Himself "the true vine," Jesus suggests that He is also "the tree of life"—the source of all goodness, and of all heavenly joy.

The only detail of the Passover supper is a brief comment that the bread is dipped in bitter herbs (13:26). In all the other gospels, Jesus offers His disciples the bread and wine, referring to the bread as His body and the wine as His blood. Additionally, in every case He refers to the wine as "the fruit of the vine." But in John, the main action takes place in the scene when Jesus washes His disciples' feet. There, instead of a detailed description of what happened *after* supper. This object lesson illustrates and emphasizes His new commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you" (13:34). The focus is on service, not ceremony; on love, not liturgy.

Express John 15 in Simple English

Answer Sheet

Use the words from the middle column to brainstorm answers with students.

Words from John 15		What these words mean to me
I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit....	Life Source Fruitfulness	I am life; you are a recipient of life.
These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you , and that your joy may be full.	Teaching Joy Happiness	Everything I teach aims at your full happiness.
Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.	Love Self-serving vs. service-oriented	One of the most powerful things you can do to receive this happiness is to get rid of self-serving attitudes and actions.
You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.	Friendship Rules	I invite you into a close relationship with Me, during which we communicate frequently.
These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.	Stumble Walking	In the context of that relationship, I’m going to teach you how to avoid pain.
I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth....	Limits to understanding Enlightenment State of readiness	Figure these things out, try them for a while, and when you’re ready, I’ll tell you more.
These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.	Figure things out Freedom Father = love	In the process, you’ll come to see that I am a God of pure love...
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.	Peace	...and you will have peace.