

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 26. I am the true vine



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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. "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. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Galatians 5:22-23

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage, God wants us all to be fruitful. By staying close to Jesus, God gives us gifts to use throughout our lives.

A vine's purpose is to produce fruit (grapes) and plenty of them! No vine is grown to be ornamental, only producing leaves and flowers. The gardener's job is to produce the maximum amount of grapes by cutting off unproductive branches, and pruning the remaining branches to give maximum crop. (v2)

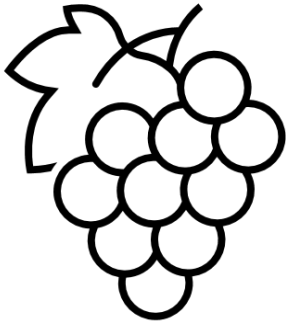
As Christians, God wants us to bear fruit in three ways: Christ-like character, Christ-like actions and Christ-like transformations (making disciples). This takes time, just as fruit takes time to grow, so we mustn't despair if we are not there yet. Each of us is a work in progress! We are told to remain in Him, whatever the circumstances, and stay connected to Him, reading the Bible and praying to Him, so that His life can flow through us to produce fruit. What does this fruit look like? There are many references to fruit in the Bible, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

Pruning is not always pleasant, but it is essential for each one of us and we can be confident that God knows exactly what He is doing in our lives.

### Reflections:

- Are we bearing fruit for God's Kingdom?
- Are there ungodly attitudes, activities or relationships that we need to see pruned in our lives? If the answer is yes, then ask God to help us deal with them.
- Are we daily remaining in Christ, making Him at home in our hearts?
- Remember, Jesus said, "apart from me you can do nothing." (v5)

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

