

WARM-UP

- Have you ever tried taking care of a plant? How was your experience?
- When you experience a difficulty or roadblock, how do you respond? Recall an instance explaining this.
- Share a time when you felt like you lost your way. How did you get back on track?

WORD *“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. ⁵I 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.”* **JOHN 15:4-5**

(Read also **JOHN 15:1-11.**)

Jesus describes Himself as the true vine, and God the Father as the vinedresser. The role of the vinedresser is to care for the vine so that it could grow and bear much fruit. In this imagery, Jesus' followers are the branches in the vine. God our Father cares for the vine and shows His love by tending to those who abide in Jesus. In this lesson, we will go deeper into these truths.

1 | Jesus is the true vine.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser." **JOHN 15:1**

Branches draw upon a vine for life and growth. By calling Himself the true vine, Jesus describes Himself as the only source we can draw true life and growth from. Have you ever found yourself depending on a false source of life and growth? What happened? How did you respond?

2 | We bear fruit when we abide in Jesus.

"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." **JOHN 15:5**

We bear much fruit only when we abide in Jesus. Abiding in Jesus means to believe in Him, know His word, and continually act according to His word. Fruitfulness is the result of that relationship with Jesus, not the other way around. If we were to focus on bearing fruit more than abiding in Christ, what do you think would happen? Why?

When we abide in Jesus, we experience the fullness of joy.

⁹*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*

¹⁰*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*

¹¹*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”* **JOHN 15:9-11**

Jesus says that He loves us just as God our Father loves Him. He cares for us and wants us to experience the fullness of joy in Him. When we abide in Jesus, we become fruitful, bring glory to God, and experience the fullness of His joy in our lives. What do you think it means to experience the fullness of God's joy in your life? What would it look like for you?

APPLICATION

- What has been your experience of Jesus as the true vine (John 15:1)? How can you grow in your relationship with Him every day?
- When you are continually abiding in Jesus, what fruitfulness do you see in your life? How can you use this awareness to continually abide in Him?
- Abiding in Jesus leads to fruitfulness and God being glorified. How can you share this truth with your friends and family this week?

