

Objective: The new believer will learn the need to remain in Christ and walk away with a practical way to read the Bible.

Commentary on John 15:1-8: Through this extended metaphor of the vine and branches, Jesus set forth the basis of Christian living by using the imagery of agricultural life. Jesus specifically identified Himself as the “true vine” and the Father as the gardener. The vine has two types of branches: (1) branches that bear fruit and (2) branches that do not. The branches that bear fruit are genuine believers. The branches that do not bear fruit are those who profess to believe, but their lack of fruit indicates that genuine salvation has never taken place, and they have no life from the vine.

Kickoff Question: What do you want to be true of you when you graduate from college? What about 5 years from now? 10 years from now? 50 years from now? How do you think this will happen for you? (Transition: “What you’re really saying is that you want your life to be fruitful – that you want to bear fruit with your life. We’re going to look at a passage today that talks about how to be fruitful.”)

Read John 15:1-8 to yourselves.

1. Read v. 1 out loud. Q: Who is the vine? Who is the gardener? Who are the branches (v. 5)?
A: Jesus is the vine, God is the gardener, we are the branches.
2. Read v. 2 out loud. Q: What 2 things does God do to make the branches more fruitful?
A: 1. He cuts off the branches that don’t bear fruit, and 2. He prunes the ones that do bear fruit so they will be even more fruitful.
3. Q: What does it mean to prune something?
A: It means to trim in order to increase growth.
4. Q: What are some things you think God wants to cut out of your life?
5. Q: What are some things you think God wants to prune in your life?
6. Read v. 3 out loud. Explain: For someone who has trusted in Christ, he/she is clean because Jesus has paid for all of their sins.
7. Read v. 4 out loud. Q: How does verse 4 say we bear fruit?
A: To remain in the vine
8. What do you think it means to remain in the vine – to remain in Jesus?
A: (It means to stay, abide, dwell, be present – to stay connected)
9. Q: How do you think someone “remains in the vine?”
A: By consistently being present with Christ – we do that through reading the Bible and praying.
10. Read v. 5 out loud. Q: What will happen if someone remains in Christ? What if someone does not remain in Christ?
A: Bear fruit vs. “apart from me you can do nothing”
11. Read verses 6-8 out loud. Q: In verse 8, what glorifies the Father?
A: Bearing fruit

The means that God has given us to remain in Christ are the Bible and prayer. The way that you can bear fruit is by beginning to build the habit of consistently reading and applying the Bible to your life and praying to God.

Bible Reading Plan

Day	Verse(s)	Day	Verse(s)
1	Ephesians 2:8-9	16	Hebrews 4:12
2	Acts 3:18-20	17	2 Timothy 3:16-17
3	Galatians 2:20-21	18	Joshua 1:8
4	Mark 1:14-15	19	Isaiah 40:7-8
5	John 6:28-29	20	Matthew 24:34-35
6	Acts 20:20-21	21	Psalms 1:1-3
7	John 3:34-36	22	Philippians 4:6-7
8	Luke 9:23-24	23	Matthew 7:7-11
9	1 John 5:11-13	24	John 16:23-24
10	Acts 17:30-31	25	John 15:5-7
11	Romans 10:9-11	26	Mark 11:24-25
12	Luke 14:27-30	27	James 1:5-6
13	John 1:10-12	28	1 John 5:14-15
14	1 Peter 3:18	29	James 4:2-3
15	Colossians 2:6-7	30	Matthew 6:9-13

1. What did you learn?

Read the verse(s) for the day a couple of times. In one or two sentences, write out what you learned. Some helpful questions:

What did you learn about mankind?

What did you learn about God or God's character?

What wrong beliefs did you have about God or yourself?

2. Key Verse

Write out word for word the most impactful verse to you.

3. What does this mean for me? (Action Step)

Write one or two sentences about how you will apply this passage.

What will you do in your life because of what you read?

What truths do you need to believe?