

Branch Management

Harvest Pastors | John 15:1-17

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

For a brief recap, the sermon's title was: **Branch Management**

Main Points were: (1) The image; (2) The implications

Ice Breaker

If your personality were a fast food chain, which would you be?

Understanding the Text in Context

For some Old Testament background, read Isaiah 5:1-7. Describe the care of the vineyard owner. When the vineyard produces “wild grapes,” what is the result? (v 4-7)

In John 15:1-2, describe the imagery of the vine and the vinedresser. From verse 2, describe the two types of branches. What is the purpose of the pruning?

As some of the final words from Jesus to his disciples, why is abiding (remaining) so important for them to hear in light of the fact that Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion are right around the corner?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

Jesus says they are “already clean” (John 15:3). What does this indicate about the status of their relationship (see also Jn 13:6-11). Read Romans 10:9-10. How does this make it possible to abide?

How does Jesus' love set the standard for our love? (Jn 15:12-13) Jesus provides the best example of the "greater love." What echoes of that kind of love have you seen?

How does the shift of relationship from "servant" to "friend" change the way we think about obeying? What might be difficult about thinking of Jesus as a "friend" (Jn 15:14-17)

Living Out the Truth

Reflect on the picture of The Father pruning us as branches. In your life-story, is there a "good" thing that God removed from your life you didn't understand at the time but later saw how God used it to produce something greater?

How do we respond in these moments of pain and confusion? Is there pain in your life today that He might be using to prune you? How does God's goal of more fruit comfort you? What does the "abiding" and persevering life look like, in practical action steps, even in the midst of what may be unclear or confusing? How does verse 16 help?

Describe ways you have seen others love one another. How does that show evidence of abiding? Thank God for such acts of love!

Pray for one another.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Jesus says He is the true vine and we are the branches (John 15:1-5). Branches don't produce fruit by trying harder on their own—they stay connected to the vine. Talk together as a family about what "staying connected" to Jesus looks like in everyday life.

- What are some simple ways we can remain in Jesus this week (Scripture, prayer, worship, serving, talking about Him together)?
- If someone watched our family, would they see that our life and "fruit" (love, patience, kindness, obedience) come from depending on Jesus, or mostly from our own effort and routines?
- End by praying that your family would stay closely connected to Jesus, trust the Father's care, and bear fruit that lasts.

Further Study

Read some articles:

- What are the seven I AM statements in the Gospel of John? [Article](#) and [Video](#).
- [Practically, How Do We Abide in Jesus?](#)
- [How Is Jesus the True Vine?](#)
- [Does the vine and branches passage in John 15 mean that salvation can be lost?](#)
- [God's Goodness in the Vineyard](#)
- [If God Loves You, He Will Prune You](#)
- [The Unravelling: Lessons from God's Pruning](#)
- [The Source of Joy](#)

Listen to the complete Gospel of John, with a symphony in the background: [ESV Symphony of Scripture Audio Bible, Gospel of John](#)

In your John Study Journals, look ahead to next week's sermon and text for John 15:18–16:33: "Rejected by the World, Accepted by God" and "The Promised Spirit" and "Suffering and Joy"