



STUDY GUIDE

I AM
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[set up]

Last week Pastor Josh preached on John 15, Jesus as the True Vine. It can be difficult for us in NEO to picture the sort of vine He is referring to. If you have visited a wine growing region, share that experience and a few things you learned about vines and vineyards.

Have you ever heard on the radio or online a great sermon on John 15? If so, share that resource with your group.

[digging deeper]

Read John 15:1-12.

John 15 is one of the most well-known, loved, and preached passages of Scripture in all the Bible. That is because of its richness for living the Christian life.

Jesus says He is the true/genuine/legitimate vine. He is the only source of life and joy. What are some of the false vines people often abide in? What is the false vine most tempting to you?

When Jesus claimed to be the true vine, He wasn't just taking that imagery out of thin air. All throughout the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was called the vine of God (Jeremiah 2:21; Isaiah 27:2-6; Isaiah 5:1-7). Israel was to be the source of God's favor, abundance, and invitation. But, Israel was an unfruitful vine. God decided to send His very own Son as the True Vine for all peoples. Jesus is the True Vine that is producing fruit that glorifies God.

Read Isaiah 5:1-7 and compare the vine of Israel with the True Vine of Jesus.

The language of "abiding in Christ" in John 15 is the same idea of being "in Christ" or united with Christ that is seen in Paul's writings in the New Testament. Read Romans 6:5-11. In John 15, Jesus says the road to full joy is abiding in Christ which is abiding in Christ's love which is obeying the commandment of God which is to love others.

John 15:6 is a warning to unfruitful vines. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. What are the things that our culture builds their life on? What is the thing that your immediate family builds their life on? What are some ways to make sure that you are building your life on Christ?

Read Matthew 22:34-40. How is this similar to John 15? Is there anything that Jesus contributes to the idea by His discourse in John 15?

Jesus says that the way you love God is to obey the commandments. The way you obey the commandments is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:40). It is harder for you to love God or to love neighbor? What is the relationship between loving God and neighbor?

[living it out]

Easter is this upcoming Sunday. This is a special Sunday for nonbelievers because they are more likely than any other Sunday to attend church. As a LifeHouse, which people will you invite to Easter Sunday services?

Prayer Time: Spend some extended time in prayer this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in greater ways to empower you to abide in the True Vine. Pray against any false vines (also called “idols”) that would tempt you this week. Pray that your LifeGroup would be a catalyst to help each member love one another better.