

Many Rooms

The 'Way of Life' Series

Connecting with others around the presence of Jesus, & growing spiritually
by understanding and applying God's Word, together.

Week 8: John 15:1-8

PREPARE and PRAY

Breathe deeply, settle in, and prepare to meet with God. Then **invite God to speak** to you through His Word.

READ and LISTEN

Slowly read this week's Scripture several times. As you read, **listen to the Holy Spirit** with your heart and mind.

SUMMARIZE and REFLECT

On this page or in a journal, **summarize the core teaching** of these verses. **Ask God for insight** as you reflect on and answer the following questions.

1. What is one thing Jesus's words and/or actions reveal about God?
2. In your own words, what does Jesus say about who a disciple is and what disciples do?

DIG and DISCOVER

Take a closer look at God's truth. Let these questions and insights **deepen your understanding** as you prepare to apply God's word.

***"Bearing fruit is passive. The only thing active Jesus calls us to here is to 'abide in him.'
We abide; he makes us fruitful."*** – Alan Fadling

1. Jesus spoke to a *group* of disciples, not to an individual. The "you" here is plural. So, re-read John 15:1-8 substituting all the words "you" with the word "y'all."
 - Why does this distinction matter? How does reading it in its plural form change its meaning for you?
2. Read John 15:1, slowly by itself. Now take several minutes to picture and meditate on the word picture Jesus used to describe him and the Father.
 - What does this word picture reveal? What new layers about Jesus and the Father is the Holy Spirit revealing to you?
3. What is the farmer or gardener's role in making his garden fruitful? What is the garden's role?
4. Read Galatians 5:22-25.
 - How are the "fruit" Paul lists produced? Who decides the kinds of fruit (attitudes, actions, words) Christians will bear?
 - How is Paul's writing, in Galatians 5:22-25, informed by Jesus's teaching in John 14:15-31 and 15:1-8?
5. When you think about Fellowship North and your Many Rooms group, what kind of fruit is God bearing in us and through us? What kinds of fruit does God *want* to produce through us? (See the following for help: Proverbs 3:1-6; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:35-45; John 4:34-38, 12:23-26; Romans 12; Colossians 1:9-10)
6. When Jesus says "I am the true vine," what is he claiming about himself? How do his other statements, in John, inform this one? (see John 6:35, 8:12; 10:9 - 11; 11:25; and 14:6)
7. Who is the vine in these Old Testament passages – Psalm 80:8-16, Isaiah 5:1-7? And who is the vinedresser? What does the vinedresser do to care for and provide for the vineyard? (see John 15:2)
8. How has God provided for and cared for his Church? How has he provided and cared for you and other disciples you know?
9. Read John 15:5 again. What is Jesus's prescription for becoming a fruit-bearing Church? What does it look like for God's people to "abide" or "remain" in Jesus? (see John 14:21,23; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 5:15-21)
10. When Jesus says, "apart from me y'all can do nothing," what does he mean? What things are impossible for God's people to accomplish apart from Jesus?

RESPOND and COMMIT

Ask God how he wants you to **respond to His Word** today and this week. **Commit to one step** of action and **share it** with someone you know.