

Weekly Study Guide for June 22, 2025 | Abide in Him

Read John 15:1-17 and reflect on the questions which follow:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain [abide] in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other” (John 15:1-17)

Links to References: [Ezekiel 33:10](#); [1 Chronicles 12:32](#); [John 1:32](#), [John 15:1-17](#), [John 14:16-17](#), [John 17:14-17](#), [John 8:31](#), [Matthew 5:16](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)

Reflection Questions:

1. Which word or words stand out to you in the passage above? Which words are repeated the most? What can you draw from this?
2. What does it mean to abide in Christ? How does the analogy used by Jesus help us better understand this? How might this look in your life personally?
3. How does pruning figure into this discussion? Why does God prune us? How is it related to abiding and bearing fruit? Is there anything which needs to be removed from your life?

4. What kind of fruit should we produce? What happens to branches that don't bear fruit? How does this all relate or connect to the love of God?
5. What is one big takeaway from all of this? How does it apply to you? What difference will this make in your life?

For later: Take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson applies to your life. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? How can you apply this to your life?

Summary: The words “abide” or “remain”, “fruit,” “love,” and “command” appear again and again. That repetition isn't accidental—it emphasizes the core theme: true spiritual life flows from staying connected to Jesus. Repetition is often a divine highlighter, drawing our attention to what matters most.

The word which appeared the most is the Greek word, "meno." It sounds similar to the translated word in English, "Remain." It is used 11 times in these 10 verses. It means, remain, abide, wait, tarry, sojourn, remain, rest, continue to be present, not to depart, or to endure. The next word used here is the word fruit, but it's accompanied by another word, to give us the phrase "bear fruit," and in several places "to bear much fruit." Abiding in Christ is essential to bearing much fruit.

When Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener,” He's using a metaphor. He doesn't say He is like a vine (which would make it a simile), but rather He is the vine, which is a hallmark of metaphorical language. It's a direct comparison meant to reveal a deeper spiritual truth. This metaphor then unfolds into a broader analogy, as Jesus continues speaking about branches, fruit, pruning, and abiding—all to explain the believer's relationship with Him and with God. The metaphor sets the image, and the analogy builds a teaching framework around it.

To abide is a continual posture of dependence, intimacy, and friendship. Jesus' vine analogy makes this beautifully clear: just as a branch cannot survive or produce fruit apart from the vine, we cannot thrive spiritually apart from Jesus.

Pruning isn't punishment—it's refinement. It makes room for more of God. The Father prunes us because He sees the potential for more fruit in your life. In this context, “fruit” refers to the outward, visible evidence of an inward connection to Christ—things like love, obedience, and joy. The fruit God produces in our lives is good and abundant. It looks like Jesus and shows us to be one of His disciples, ultimately, as love like Jesus, sacrificially and unconditionally. This kind of fruit glorifies God because it comes from Him and points people to Him.