

**JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE**

**PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.**

**Lesson Aim:** Abide in Jesus Christ so you can bear the fruit of many souls that put their trust in Him.

**Suggestion:** The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

**Introduction:** Jesus prepares His disciples for a fruitful ministry that will produce many souls who will put their trust in Him for salvation. They will suffer persecution from those that hated Him, but the Holy Spirit will come and help them so they can witness the truth about Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** "I am the vine, you are the branches: he that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5).

**How do the vine and branches portray the life and purpose of a believer? 15:1**

Jesus is the true vine that gives His followers (the branches) all the nourishment they need to produce the fruit of souls for His glory and for the praise of His Father. The purpose of a vine is not for producing wood, beautiful flowers or large green leaves, but it is for bearing fruit.

**What does God do with the branches? 15:2**

God works on the branches so the vine is more productive. He cuts off the branches that do not produce fruit and He prunes those that do produce fruit so it can produce more fruit. What happens to the branches that He cuts off? These branches appear to be those who profess to be Christians; but they do not know Christ. They appear to be "in" Christ by belonging to a church, but they do not have a spiritual connection "in" Christ (cf. Mt 7:21-23). Persecution or tribulation may be allowed to cut them off (cf. Mt 13:21-22). What happens to the fruitful branches that He prunes? God cuts off the sins and non-productive activities in the lives of His children by His Word or by chastening (Heb 12:7, 10) so they will be more fruitful. Jesus speaks of fruit as souls that are saved (Jn 4:36; 15:16). In a secondary sense it may also apply to other virtues of a Christian (cf. Gal 5:22-23; Heb 12:11; 2 Pet 1:5-8), but only to enable a believer to be more effective in producing souls that trust in Jesus Christ.

**How do believers bring forth much fruit? 15:5**

Believers must abide in Jesus and He in them as branches and the vine abide in each other. This mutual abiding enables believers to produce much fruit; without Him there is no fruit. They abide in Him by loving Him. He abides in them when His words are obeyed (15:7).

**How are believers to fulfill their commission? 15:16**

Jesus chose each believer and commissioned them to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). Then He commanded them to go and bring forth fruit, that is, bring souls to Him for salvation.. He promised them that they would bear fruit and these souls would remain faithful to Him. He also provided a means to fulfill their commission. They could ask in prayer for anything they needed to get the job done and He would give it to them.

**What is the relationship of a believer to the world? 15:19**

The world loves its own people, but when one of them becomes a believer in Jesus Christ, he or she is hated by the world because they hate Jesus Christ and they hate His Father that sent Him. The world is under the domain of Satan who is diametrically opposed to God, His Son and His children. Hence, the believer is warned, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world . . . for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 Jn 2:15-16). As a result a believer should expect to suffer for Jesus' sake and for his or her heavenly Father (Phil 1:29).