

## **Fruitful Vineyard**

John 15:1-17

### **Discover**

Fruitful means a healthy plant or tree producing an abundant crop of delicious fruit. A vineyard is a field planted with grape vines producing grapes for making new wine.

Our Father set apart man from everything he made, creating only humans in his image. He planted Adam and Eve in Eden Garden to tend the vegetation and give special names to every being. He created Eve from Adam's body: another branch to display his majesty. (Genesis 2:15-22)

Abundant life flourishes wherever living water flows. Our Father can transform deserts and dry lands into harvest fields and vineyard plantations that sustain growing communities. Vineyards are a blessing. (Psalms 107:35-38)

Solomon wrote a song about Jesus, prophesying about the future Messiah's prosperous kingdom. His dominion is like a fresh rainfall of flawless justice: adopting orphans, caring for widows, and defending the poor. (Psalms 72:1-7)

Vineyards produce grapes which people eat as fruit or preserve for later. Grapes are also used to make wine. Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to new wine and our traditions to old wine. We cannot become comfortable in our old ways; so, we desire daily to be new. (Luke 5:37-39)

This lesson is about our role and position in God's kingdom. We are his branches; we are living water channels. Isaiah prophesied about heaven. One day, there will be no more miscarriages or premature deaths, no more war or worry, no more crime or curses. We will live with our Loving Father forever, experiencing his perfect blessings and abundant generosity as families and communities. (Isaiah 65:20-23)



# FRUITFUL VINEYARD



JOHN 15:1-17

## **Draw**

Family Vineyard: vinekeeper & vine - Jesus' Church is like a fruitful vineyard. Our Father is the vinekeeper, Jesus is the vine, the Holy Spirit is the living water, and we are the branches. We share in God's work to cultivate crops. (15:1-2)

Living Water: vine, branches, & fruit - Branches die when they dry up; the living water flows through the branches to produce fruit. Jesus has designed us to remain in him, so that he will produce a bountiful harvest through us. (15:4-5)

Captured Heart: heart & crown - Jesus captures our hearts for his kingdom and glory. Faithful communion with our King aligns our desires with his, so that our obedience to his commands flow from our praises, prayers, and faith. (15:7-9)

Pruning Process: branches & fire - Our Father prunes our values. He loves us enough to cut off every poisoned branch of our lives, so that we become true disciples. We welcome his refining fire to purify and cleanse us. (15:6)

Perfect Joy: well & fountain - We experience unity with and affection from our Compassionate Father through Jesus' peace. Joy overflows like a living water fountain out of this eternal well of Christ's love. We gladly obey him. (15:10-11)

Pure Love: crucified messiah - Jesus demonstrates the perfect, sacrificial love of God's kingdom by laying down his life as the final payment that completely covers mankind's rebellion debt. It is finished! Jesus calls us "friends," because we participate in our Master's mission. (15:12-13)

Enduring Fruit: fruit bowl - Jesus sovereignly chooses each of his disciples and commissions us to live fruitful lives. The fruits of this earth spoil, but the spiritual fruit and gifts of Jesus' kingdom never die. His fruit includes love, friendship, faith, trust, power, confidence, and empathy. (15:15-17)

## **Discuss**

Read John 15:5-8. Our God is the Gardener, and we see a picture of him pruning healthy branches and cutting off dead branches. What is it like to be a dead branch? Share a recent experience of how God has pruned you for growth.

Read John 15:12-17. Why is the greatest love in the universe laying down your life for a friend? What are some differences between a slave and a son? What is the relationship between loving each other and producing fruit?

Read Psalms 62:5-8. This lesson is focused on teaching total dependence upon God for everything. Discuss God's names in this passage: Hope Source, Rock, Salvation, Fortress, and Refuge. How do these names ignite a passion in our hearts to personally depend completely upon him?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. Both John 15 and 1 Corinthians 3 testify that God alone produces fruit. We cannot be fruitful unless we abide in him. Are you depending on anything else? How does this knowledge humble us in serving him?

## **Disciple**

Let's get practical. Let us make sure that we fully embrace Jesus' teaching about abiding in him. What are some challenges to remaining in Jesus all the time? Consider your weekly activities; how can you practice God's presence at home, at work, as you travel, as you entertain? Ask God for help. Begin praising and praying more throughout each day.

## **Dedicate**

Father, thank you for this beautiful story of how we are connected to you and interconnected with other disciples. Please help us to abide in you, to practice your presence every day, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.