# Lesson 14 [Chapters 15-17] "Abide in Me"

## Remember:

Last lesson, in John 13, Jesus demonstrates ultimate humility and love by washing His disciples' feet during the Last Supper, setting a servant-leadership example. In John 14, Jesus comforts His disciples before His crucifixion, promising to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. He declares Himself as "the way, the truth, and the life".

## Lesson Goal:

To teach us to abide (remain) in Jesus, the True Vine, to bear spiritual fruit, which glorifies God.

## Lesson opener:

Soak It Up!

About twenty-four hours before your class, prepare a cut stock of celery into two pieces. Take one piece place it in a clear cup of water that has been heavily dyed with red food coloring. The celery will soak up the food coloring, exhibiting what it has been abiding in. Leave the other piece of celery out of the water without refrigeration.

Exhibit those two pieces of celery to your class. Explain that the one piece has been left out and has not abided in anything. It should now be limp and beginning to discolor. Explain that the other has been abiding in the colored water. Show the class how it has taken on the characteristics of what it has been abiding in. When we abide In Christ, we start taking His character.

## Lesson Body:

### Chapter 15

#### The True Vine 15:1-8

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3] You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

Jesus said that He was the vine, and that we are the branches. What might that mean? He was explaining how important it is for us to stay connected to Him. Just as the vine provides nutrition that helps fruit grow on a plant, Jesus gives us all that we need to grow in our faith. The branches on a grape vine must stay connected to the vine so that they can produce delicious fruit. Otherwise, they'll dry up and wither.

God cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit while every branch that does not bear fruit, He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. God uses a disciplining process [pruning] to make His people more spiritually productive, growing us into His image.

The vine is the source of life and the branches growing there belong to the vine. The vine supports, nurtures and feeds the branches. Without the vine, the branches would not live. Without Jesus we could not live spiritually.



*5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.*

What is the one word that is used 11 times in this chapter?

"Abide". We are told that we are to abide [remain] in the vine. This refers to an intimate and constant relationship.

How do we abide in the vine? Abiding in Christ refers to constant choices to live a Christian life, trusting our Lord and obeying His Word.

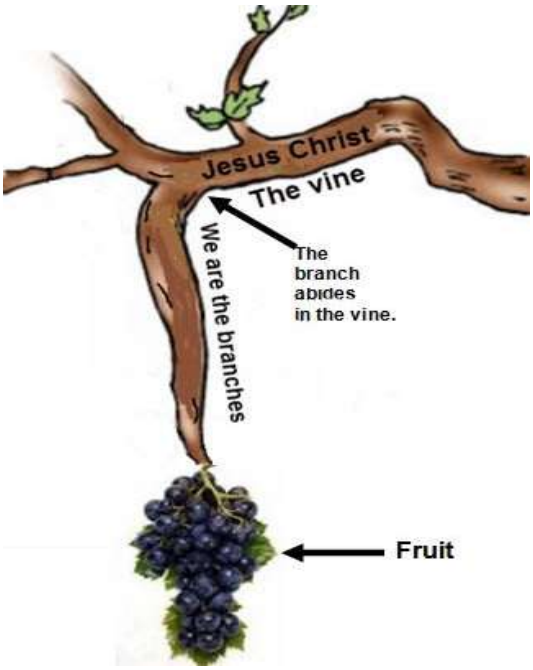
You are already clean because of the words I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. We need to stay close to Christ so that He can produce "fruit" in us. Of course, we aren't going to start sprouting grapes or anything. Spiritual fruit refers to things

that help others and show that Jesus lives in and through us. Those are things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

How do we make sure we are connected to Jesus? We read God's Word and study the Bible. We pray, talking to God and listening, too. We go to church so we can be connected with other "branches" that also abide in Him.

If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up , thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.




**That They Must Love One Another 15:9-27**

Jesus commands us to love in a particular way in verse 12. What is it?

Love one another as I have loved you.

What is the love of Jesus like? Unconditional, a choice, not based on externals, never-ending, unselfish, immeasurable, unfathomable.

**Story: No greater love than this: Read 15:13**

*There was a story of a young girl and her brother. The girl had leukemia and needed a blood transfusion. The doctor asked her little brother if he would be willing to give his blood for his*

*sister. The boy thought for some time and finally soberly answered, "yes." When the doctor inserted the needle and was taking the blood, the boy meekly looked up and asked, "when am I going to die?" The precious boy had believed that giving his blood meant he was going to die to save his sister. Although the doctors then assured him it would not cost his life, they were amazed at the boy's sacrificial love.*

Jesus faced the same situation as the boy, but He had to give His life by choice because of His love for you. He sacrificed Himself for them and for us.

We keep the commandments, not only in our hearts, nor by meditating on them and studying them, but also by practicing them, being always alert, correct and truly eager that we may enjoy them.

Jesus did not stop at sacrificing Himself for them, but He also made a covenant with them that they become His friends who enjoy knowing His secrets, for they are not servants. The master may love his servant and may treat him gently, but he does not allow his servant to share his personal secrets.

So why does the world hate Jesus?

Jesus testifies that its deeds are evil and exposes their sin. People reject Jesus because they do not know God who sent Him (verse 21).

He gave them a path that seemed extremely difficult as He asked them to abide in Him like branches in the vine. That seemed impossible to a human being, for how can a weak man abide in the heavenly Son of God? How can they love to the point of death? How can they tolerate persecution?

He, therefore, comforted them by His promise to send His Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. He is the heavenly teacher, the true guide who will lead them to Christ's perfect truth and accomplish all the above.

## Chapter 16

## Jesus Warns and Comforts His Disciples

The Lord informs the disciples beforehand about the sufferings they will endure so that they do not stumble.

They would be kicked out of worship places and be killed. All these things would be done by people thinking they were serving God like the Pharisees. But they were actually fighting against God. Paul is a perfect example. He had been taught by many people that following Jesus was evil and that he needed to wipe Christians out. He dedicated himself to the task.

But he found He was fighting against God. Whoever fought against God, did it because he/she didn't really know Jesus nor the Father.

Jesus did not tell His disciples those things at the beginning when they followed Him so that they may not be confused or worried. When He was with them in the flesh, He comforted and supported them. Now they would not see Him, but He leaves to them His word and His promise that He will send to them the Holy Spirit ➔ the Helper.

It is better for them to have Him inside of them [The Holy Spirit] rather than walking side by side on earth with them.

At the same time the disciples were grieving, the world was rejoicing at Jesus' death. Satan and his armies were celebrating. But in an instant when Jesus came out of the tomb everything, EVERYTHING, changed.

Satan's biggest triumph was turned to a crushing defeat. The rulers' excitement that it was over was turned into worry and anxiety at how to respond to the grave being empty. Resurrection is the turning point of everything.

Jesus spoke these things to give us peace. He does not conceal from them the fact that in the world they will have tribulation. However, He asks them to be of good cheer in the middle of tribulation because He will be revealed in their life as overcoming the sinful world.



## Chapter 17

### The Farewell Prayer

This chapter could be called the Lord's Prayer. What we normally call the Lord's Prayer was His model prayer to His disciples, but here is the only place a lengthy prayer of Jesus is recorded. It gives us a lot of valuable insight into the close relationship Jesus had with the

Father. It also shows us the kind of things Jesus often prayed about. Part of the prayer is Jesus' talking with the Father about His mission and what He was doing, etc. The rest is Jesus praying for the disciples and all believers.

### *What if you could pray the way Jesus did?*

1. Put God's Glory First in Prayer: 17:1-5 Jesus starts by praying for His Father's glory and the fulfillment of His plan. He's focused on what matters most—God's purposes. When you pray, don't just list your needs. Pray for His will to guide your decisions, aligning your heart with His mission to save people and bring honor to His name. Try this: Begin your prayer with, "God, use me today to show others who You are."
2. Pray for Protection and Spiritual Growth: 17: 6-19 Jesus asks God to protect His disciples from evil and to make them holy through His truth. Pray for protection over yourself, your loved ones, and your church. Try this: "Lord, keep ..... safe from harm and help them grow in Your truth."
3. Pray for Unity That Stands Out: 17:20-23 Jesus prays that all believers would be one, just as He is with the Father. In a divided world, a church that loves each other grabs attention. Try this: Pray for family, friends or your church, saying, "God, make us one so the world sees You through us."
4. Pray to Reach the World: 17:21 & 23 Jesus says our unity will help the world believe in Him. Pray for opportunities to share your faith, whether it's inviting someone to church, helping a neighbor, or speaking up about Jesus.
5. Pray with Eternity in Focus: In 17:24-26, Jesus looks to the future, when we'll be with Him in glory. He reminds us that this world isn't our final home.
6. Pray to a God Who Loves You: Jesus' prayer in verses 25-26 is personal, full of love for the Father and for us. Prayer isn't just a duty; it's a conversation with a God who cares deeply. Approach Him with gratitude for His love and ask to know Him better. Let your prayers be real, like talking to a close friend.
7. Keep Praying for Others: Jesus prays for others—His disciples, future believers, and the world. He's showing us how to put others first.

**Memory Verse: 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**