

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

Feb 2016

## *John: Jesus is the Christ*

### **Lesson #17: Fruit of the Vine**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Where is the best garden you've seen? What makes it so special?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

*Note : Jesus' departure is imminent. However, the promise of His continuing presence in the life of every believer is the subject matter in this final discourse. Through the Holy Spirit He would remain an abiding presence in the life of His disciples. His peace (14:27), joy (15:11), and love (15:12) would be their experience. This is one of the seven "I am" descriptions Jesus gives of himself. The repetition of Vv 1 & 5 makes it even more emphatic. Israel was often described as a vine in the Old Testament. Jer 2:21; Isa 5:1 Fire is used as a symbol of God's anger and judgement. Dt 32:22*

#### **Read John 15:1-17**

1. What is the relationship we see between the vine, the gardener and the branches?  
What spiritual truth is Jesus illustrating? (i.e.- who are the vine, master gardener, and branches?)
2. Is the vine in any danger of pruning or only the branches? Why?
3. How can the master gardener distinguish between productive and non-productive branches?  
Aren't there times of dormancy?
4. What is the purpose of pruning? Isn't it painful?
5. Why does God "prune" believers? What "tools" might He use?
6. How were the disciples cleansed by the word Jesus spoke to them? vs.3 How does His word cleanse us today?
7. Jesus repeats "remain in Me" and "fruitfulness". What relationship do we see here? What are the two aspects of this fruit?
8. What does it mean to remain in Christ? **Jn 6:56; 1 Jn 2:6**
9. How might our "remaining" (abiding life) affect other aspects of our Christian experience?  
Prayer life vv.7, 16; Awareness of the Savior's love (9); Obedience (10); Character (joy) v.11;  
Relationships vv.12-13; Witness v.16
10. How does fruitfulness relate to genuine salvation? **Heb 6:6-9; 1 Jn 3:18**

#### **APPLICATION**

- Where do you see possible pruning taking place in your personal life?
- What is one step you want to take to become more fruitful for Christ?

*Think of the things that take you out of abiding in Christ – "Yes, Lord, just a minute, I have got this to do." "Yes, I will abide when once this is finished." "When this week is over, it will be all right, I will abide then."*

*Get a move on; begin to abide now. In the initial stages it is a continual effort until it becomes so much the law of life that you abide in Him unconsciously. Determine to abide in Jesus wherever you are placed.*

– Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*