

# John 15:1-8

## “I AM The True Vine”

**Scripture:** John 15:1-8

**Memory Verse:** John 15:5 *“I AM the vine, you are the branches...for without Me, you can do nothing.”*

**Lesson Focus:** This is our last “I AM” lesson and one where the rubber really meets the road. Jesus makes it very clear that if we do not trust in Him and abide in Him, we will be thrown out like a dead branch is thrown out! We will end the lesson where we began weeks ago when we first started this series. As we see that He is God, our response should be, “I AM His”!

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of the Vine, Word Maze of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jesus “I AM” crown

**Main Teaching Starter Activity:** Listening game

In our Scripture passage today, there are four main words that will be repeated many times: vine, branch, fruit, and abide. (Note words might be slightly different if you are not using NKJV translation!) Divide your class up into four groups and assign to each group one of these four words. Instruct each group to keep count of how many times Jesus said each word as you SLOWLY read through **John 15:1-8**.

Answer key (from NKJV Bible):

- Vine: 4
- Branch: 5
- Fruit: 6
- Abide: 7

Have some fun emphasizing certain words as you read through the passage and congratulating the kids for listening well. If kids get the number right, consider rewarding them with some of the prizes in your upper cabinet.

Q: Why do you think Jesus repeated these words so many times in this short passage?

A: He probably wants us to listen carefully and understand what they mean!

This is our last lesson as we look at the “I AM” statements of Jesus. Let’s listen carefully to the Scripture so we can understand what Jesus is teaching us here. For not only is Jesus going to teach us who He is, He is also going to teach us who we are!

## **Bible Study:**

**John 15:1a:** Here is our last “I AM” statement and also the first of our four words.

As we have seen before (bread, light, door, etc.), Jesus is using something very common and known to people to teach them important truths about Who He is. Back in Jesus’s day vines were everywhere and provided food for the people. By saying He is like a vine, He is saying that He is the source of life for all people.

**John 15:1b:** Jesus says He is the true vine, and God the Father is the vinedresser.

Q: What do you think the vinedresser or gardener’s job is to do?

A: Make sure the vine is healthy and producing fruit!

**John 15:2:** Now here are two more of our words: branch and fruit.

Q: Who do you think the branches are? A: US!

Q: And what do good and healthy branches do? A: Bear fruit! Fruit from the vine brings blessing to people, feeding and nourishing them. In the same way, when we bear fruit, we are blessing, helping, and caring for others.

Notice Jesus said there were two kinds of branches: they either bear fruit or they don’t. \*

Q: What kind of branch do you think you are, good or bad?

A: The Bible is very clear that ALL of us are BAD....UNTIL we trust in Jesus Christ!

**John 15:3:** Jesus makes the same point here. The disciples are clean and healthy branches because they have received His word, the gospel! You also, if you have received Jesus, became a good branch and He will help you bear good fruit. But how?

**John 15:4a:** We ABIDE in Jesus, the vine! Here is that last of our four important words. Let’s make sure we understand what this means.

Q: How many of you like sleepovers? (**Teachers:** Consider sharing a fun sleepover story with your kids from your childhood). We like them because we are in close RELATIONSHIP with people we love to be with. When you are having a great time at your friend’s sleepover you are ABIDING with them.

In the same way, Jesus wants us to ABIDE in Him, spend time with Him, stay connected to Him, love being with Him. Why?

**John 15:4b:** Because He is our source of life and only through Him can we bear fruit! Branches can’t bear fruit on their own!

Q: Why do branches need to stay connected to the vine or the tree to bear fruit?

A: Because that is where they get the nutrients they need to grow.

**John 15:5:** This verse really puts what we've been learning all together as we have all four of our words in one statement. Let's review:

Q: Who is the VINE? A: JESUS!

Q: Who are the BRANCHES? A: US!

Q: What are the branches supposed to do? A: ABIDE so that they may bear FRUIT!

Notice Jesus says that apart from Him, you can do NOTHING! Just like a branch cannot bear fruit if it is not connected to the vine, we will not bear fruit unless we are connected to Jesus!

**John 15:6:** WHOA! See what happens to the BAD branches? This is serious! \* If you have not received Jesus, this is your fate. Receive Jesus today and become a good branch that ABIDES in Him!

Also, notice how He describes the bad branches. Does He say they are bad because they don't bear fruit or because they don't abide in Him? A: The good branches ABIDE!

Sometimes we hear verses like this and we might be afraid and think all that matters is that we just need to try really hard to bear fruit and be good. \* But then we have it backwards! We don't bear fruit so we can be with Jesus. Rather, we abide in and rest in Jesus so that He can bear fruit through us!

**John 15:7:** Here is one of the best ways to ABIDE in Jesus. Let His Word abide in you! Read your Bibles, memorize His Word, pray, love being with Him! Just like the vine nourishes the branch, let God's word nourish you! \*

**John 15:8:** And when we abide in Jesus and He bears fruit through us, we bring glory to God, proving that we are His disciples.

Q: What do you think this fruit looks like? A: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc.

As you abide in Jesus, you WILL love others.

As you stay connected to Jesus, you WILL be at peace with others.

As you spend time with Jesus, you WILL be patient with others.

As you are nourished by Jesus's Word, you WILL be kind to others.

In other words, you WILL be His disciples, as He says here.

**Key Point:** This is the perfect place to wrap up our study on these "I AM" statements. Across all of these statements, He has revealed Himself as the One that we CANNOT live without! Can you honestly say "I AM HIS"? \*

If you say that, then ABIDE in Him every day so that you bear fruit. If you aren't bearing any fruit, then maybe you are still a bad branch and not actually His! If so, make today the day you decide to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior!

**Optional Small Group Activity:** With this being our last lesson on these “I AM” statements consider playing a review game with the kids that cover all of the statements. Write all seven of the “I AM” statements up on the whiteboard. Then divide the class into two teams. Point out all seven statements on the board and then have questions ready that pertain to one of the answers and then have some brief discussion about each. Some examples:

- 1) Which means that Jesus only satisfies all of our spiritual needs? (Bread of Life)
- 2) Which means that Jesus only pierces the darkness? (Light of the World)
- 3) Which means that Jesus only is the way to be saved? (Door or Way, Truth, Life)
- 4) Which means that Jesus takes good care of His sheep? (Good Shepherd)
- 5) Which means that Jesus sacrificed for His sheep? (Good Shepherd)
- 6) Which means that Jesus has power over life and death? (Resurrection and Life)
- 7) Which means that Jesus only helps us grow when we abide in Him? (True Vine)
- 8) Consider also throwing in the Bible verse references to have the kids match those.

Another option is to talk about what Jesus means when He says that He is the TRUE vine in **John 15:1**. If He is the TRUE vine then that means that there are FALSE vines that we might be tempted to “abide” in instead of Jesus.

Q: What are some false vines that we might want to attach ourselves to instead of Jesus? (**Teachers:** Write responses of the kids on the whiteboard under “FALSE VINES” heading.)

A few answers that you might get are money, toys, TikTok, popularity, movies. Discuss why we might be tempted to attach to those things.

Q: What happens if you take a branch from a grapevine and tape it to an apple tree (the false vine)? Is it going to still bear fruit? NO! We need to remain attached to Jesus!

# Bring It Home

*(Devotional for the Family)*

**Lesson Theme: “I AM The True Vine”**

**Scripture: John 15:1-8**

**Memory Verse:** John 15:5 *“I AM the vine, you are the branches...for without Me, you can do nothing.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** In this passage Jesus teaches that He is the vine and we are the branches. Jesus often uses common things familiar to everyone to teach important truths about us and Himself. Do you have any plants in your home? If so, what do you do to help your plants grow and stay healthy? What are some things that cause plants to die?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **John 15:1**. Jesus says that He is the TRUE vine. Later on He will describe us as the branches and that we need to remain attached and connected to Him. If He is the TRUE vine, what are some FALSE “vines” that we might attach ourselves to instead of Jesus?
- 2) In **John 15:2**, Jesus teaches that the branches are “pruned” that they might bear more fruit. What do you think this means? Can you think of anything in your own life that God has pruned off so that you might continue to grow as a healthy branch?
- 3) Read **John 15:4**. What does it mean to abide in Jesus? What are some ways that you can abide in Him this week?
- 4) In **John 15:5**, Jesus says apart from Him we can do NOTHING. Read **Isaiah 64:6**. This verse describes our own works done in our own strength. How does this verse describe our own works done not in faith and trust in Jesus?
- 5) Read **John 15:8**. Jesus says that by bearing fruit we will prove to be His disciples. Is your life producing fruit?
- 6) This is our last lesson of the “I AM” statements of Jesus. (Bread of Life, Light of the World, The Door, Great Shepherd, Resurrection and Life, The Way/Truth/Life, and The True Vine). Did any of these statements in particular stand out to you? If so, why?
- 7) Why is it so important to know who Jesus actually is and not believe in a Jesus that we just make up?