

Digging Deeper into John 15:1-17

Chat

- Do you grow your own grapevine?
- Have you ever been to a vineyard? What was it like?



Study

Read John 15:1-17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15&version=NIV>

This is the final 'I am' saying in John's Gospel and it picks up on a theme familiar to Jews. In *Isaiah 5:1-7* it is the nation of Israel who are described as a vineyard.

- What does Isaiah say God looked for in his vineyard, but what did he find (v.2, 7)?
- Jesus takes this picture and applies it to himself. How does he describe himself and how does he describe us (Jn.15:1,5)?
- What does God continue to look for in his people (v.8, 16)?
- Jesus tells us how we can do that. What do we need to do (v.5-7)?
- What do you think it means to 'remain in Jesus' (v.7-12, 17)?
- What is the fruit which shows we are disciples of Jesus (v.9-12, 16-17)?
 - Are there other passages in the Bible which give more details about this?
- Some people think of obeying commands as restrictive, but what does Jesus link obedience with here (v.9-11)?
- How are we to love each other (v.12-13)?
- What does a friend of Jesus do (v.14)?
- What is one of the purposes of our friendship with Jesus (v.16)?
- As Jesus' friends, what has he done for us (v.15)?
- How might this link with his promise that whatever we ask in the name of Jesus, the Father will give us (v.16)?

Think



These verses tell us that being a disciple of Jesus is a transformation that comes from being joined with him. Love for and obedience to him comes from that transformative experience. And love for others naturally flows from this.

As you look at this picture of a vine, read John 15:5 again. How fruitful are you? Do you need to do something to rebuild that connection between Jesus, the true vine?

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Jn.15:5