

Gospel According to John 15:1 – 19

New American Standard Version

1 I am the true vine, and My **Father** is the vinedresser. ² Every
2 branch in Me that does not bear **fruit**, He takes away; and
3 every *branch* that bears **fruit**, He prunes it so that it may
4 bear more **fruit**. ³ You are already clean because of the word
5 which I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As
6 the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself unless it **abides** in the
7 vine, so neither *can* you unless you **abide** in Me. ⁵ I am the
8 vine, you are the branches; he who **abides** in Me and I in
9 him, he bears much **fruit**, for apart from Me you can do
10 nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not **abide** in Me, he is thrown
11 away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and
12 cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷ If you **abide** in
13 Me, and My words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish,
14 and it will be done for you. ⁸ My **Father** is glorified by this,
15 that you bear much **fruit**, and *so* prove to be My disciples.
16 ⁹ Just as the **Father** has **loved** Me, I have also **loved** you;
17 **abide** in My **love**. ¹⁰ If you keep My **commandments**, you
18 will **abide** in My **love**; just as I have kept My **Father's**
19 **commandments** and **abide** in His **love**. ¹¹ These things I
20 have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that*
21 your joy may be made full. ¹² This is My **commandment**,
22 that you **love** one another, just as I have **loved** you.
23 ¹³ Greater **love** has no one than this, that one lay down his
24 life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I
25 **command** you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the
26 slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have
27 called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My
28 **Father** I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose
29 Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go
30 and bear **fruit**, and *that* your **fruit** would remain, so that
31 whatever you ask of the **Father** in My name He may give to
32 you. ¹⁷ This I **command** you, that you **love** one another. ¹⁸ If
33 the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it
34 *hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would
35 **love** its own; but because you are not of the world, but I
36 chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

Several of the words repeated in this passage have already been marked (You're welcome!).

How do the highlighted words help you see the flow of Jesus' teaching (or do they)? How would you outline the passage using those highlights?

What other observations do you make to help understand the passage?

- Cause and effect
- Conditional statements (if...then)
- Purpose (so that...)
- Others?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How do you distinguish symbolic and literal language in this passage?

What parts of the passage are troubling or confusing?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How do the things Jesus says in this passage relate to His stated purpose (v. 11)?

What does He mean by "My joy" and "your joy made full"? What is your experience of the fullness of the joy of Jesus? How have you seen that related to the themes in this passage?

Questions for further thought and discussion:

- What does “pruning” (v. 2) mean? Why do you think Jesus didn’t explain that image in more detail?
- What is “fruit” in this passage? Converts? Character development? Good works? Other things? What characterizes fruit that makes it so important in Jesus’ teaching in this passage?
- How do you understand the branches that are burned (v. 6)? Are these different from the branches that are “taken away” (v. 2)? Is that an unfruitful Christian life, or the punishment of unbelievers? Or is that image a minor part of the picture Jesus is giving, not intended for in-depth interpretation? Sometimes we tend to read too much into the details of parables. Is this one of those times?
- How does keeping commands represent friendship (v. 14) rather than slavery (v. 15)?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them. – J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)