



## THE GOSPEL OF

# JOHN

### John 15:1-8 - You Will Bear Much Fruit

#### MAIN THING

Christ Empowers All Believers To Do What He Did

#### SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8, Mark 11:13-14, Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 5:19-25

#### ICEBREAKER

Have you ever tried to grow anything; a garden, flowers, fruit trees? How was that experience? Were you successful in your efforts? What did/didn't work?

#### OPENING THOUGHT

Vines are interesting things. They grow in every direction. They get entangled in fences, trees, and anything else they can connect to. When they grow, branches work together to climb surfaces to get as high as they can. In today's reading, we see that Christ compares himself to a vine and us to branches of that vine. In order for the branches to survive, they are fed from the vine. We, in comparison, can only grow in our faith when we are given our strength from Christ and empowered through him.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? Jesus claims that he is the vine, and we are the branches. What does the vine do for the branches, and what could that possibly mean in our relationship with Christ?
3. Jesus says to "Remain in Me, as I also remain in you" and that God "cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." How does remaining in Christ help us to "bear fruit". Read Mark 11:13-14. It seems obvious that God has no time for things that don't bear fruit. Why does it seem to be so important to God?
4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How does this relate to the section in John 15 that says, "If you do not remain in Me, you are like a branch that is thrown into the fire and burned"? Being on the vine also means being on the vine with other branches. Is it possible to really grow in Christ if you aren't meeting with other believers regularly? Do you find value in meeting with other believers?

#### LIFE APPLICATION

5. This entire passage has a lot of meat to it. It ends in verse 8 by saying, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." Are you glorifying God by your fruit? Has your branch started to wither? If it has, what can you do to start bearing fruit today, and truly be a disciple?

#### CHALLENGE

Read Galatians 5:19-25. There is an obvious difference between the acts of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. This week, show the fruit of the Spirit to those around you. When in heavy traffic, show patience. When there's an argument at home, show peace. When a coworker is driving you nuts, show kindness. How can we be like Christ or disciple others when we aren't living out the fruit of the Spirit? This is what God wants from His vine.