



# The JESUS Centered Life

We **GROW** deeply in the Love of Jesus



## Opening prayer

*Jesus, You prayed for us before your death on the cross. In John 17:26 you prayed, "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." As we study your word today, keep us connected to You, our source of sustenance and growth. Help us stay connected to You, the vine that nourishes. Amen.*

## READ John 15:1-8

Jesus uses earthly images to explain spiritual concepts. In the passage we just read, Jesus uses a vine to describe our relationship with God.

Let's begin by identifying the four parts of the imagery Jesus uses. Who or what are:

1. The gardener -
2. The vine -
3. The branches -
4. The fruit -

How does the gardener ensure a good crop from the vine?

What determines whether the gardener cuts off a branch or just prunes it?

How much control does the branch have over where it is planted, how much water it gets, or which parts of the branch get pruned?

Who does control the things mentioned in the previous question?

What do the branches get from the vine? Why can't they get this independent of the vine?

Jesus says we are the branches. How does God "prune" us? Think about a time when God has removed something from your life that was inhibiting your growth or getting in the way of you producing good fruit. How did this change your life?

In light of the questions we have just answered, what do you think **Ephesians 2:10** means for your life as a follower of Jesus? Who already has a plan for our life?

In **John 15:4-7**, what does Jesus say we must do in order to bear fruit?

## **READ John 1:1 and John 1:14**

These verses clearly equate Jesus with the Word. How is that knowledge helpful in understanding what Jesus says in **John 15:4-7**?

What are the implications of previous question for your relationship with your Bible?

## **READ Acts 2:42**

What do you think it means to be devoted to "the Apostle's teaching and to the fellowship"?

How does fellowship with other Christians around God's Word help us to GROW?

## **READ Ephesians 3:16-19**

What images does this passage have in common with John 15:1-8 that we just discussed?

According to v.17 where did God plant us ("rooted and established")? How does God also plant us in a particular location? Why do you think God planted you here?

Is this to be a lonely existence? V.18

What kind of power is Paul asking to be given to us? V.18 and 19

How does Paul say Jesus comes to live in us? V.16 and 17

If we are “to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” v.18 and 19, we will need learn about Christ. How does study, like this one we are engaged in, move us toward this grasp?

## **Summary**

What does God do for us to help us bear good and abundant fruit in our lives?

As the branches what are we called to do so we can bear that good fruit?

How can regular study of the Bible help us stay connected to Jesus (the vine)?