



SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus is God; therefore, He is Lord.

“Why Jesus?”

- **Before Adam and Eve sinned, they had an intimate connection with God—and they experienced His life (See Genesis 2).**
- **Because of sin, humanity's intimate connection with God is destroyed and we suffer brokenness and death (See Genesis 3).**

Jesus gives us a promise and a warning about remaining connected to Him.

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He 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.

John 15:1-2 (NIV)

- **Those who trust in Jesus and follow Him are the branches who are connected to the true vine.**
- **God will prune us to make fruit grow in us.**

³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“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.

John 15:3-5 (NIV)

- **Fruit is more about who we are becoming than it is what we are doing.**
- **Life is only in Jesus and becoming like Jesus is the evidence we are receiving His life.**

“Remain” = “meno” (Greek) meaning “continually present with.”

- **I cannot bear fruit unless I am continually connected with Jesus.**
- **As I am continually connected with Jesus, I will bear much fruit.**

⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:6-8 (NIV)

Our Heavenly Father, who is a Good Shepherd, warns us that He will cut out the dead things (sin) and prune the good things so we will become more like Jesus.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

I am called to be faithful and the I AM will make me fruitful.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

John 15:9 (NIV)

I will remain in Jesus' love for me by resting in His love for me.

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

John 15:10 (NIV)



Because Jesus loves me, I will obey His commands—just as Jesus obeyed His Father and remained in His love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

John 15:11-17 (NIV)

I can't create fruit. Jesus can. Remain in Jesus.

- **"Father, I give myself for union with You."**
- **"Father, I want to remain in Jesus, so the Holy Spirit can produce Jesus' character in me."**
- **"Father, I can't change _____ . I know Jesus can as I am faithful to remain in Him."**



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Who are you connected to? How have they affected your life? Has it been good or bad or a mix of both?

Who we are connected to plays an integral role in our life. It can make or break us. It can influence our ability to be a positive influence or lead us to be a negative influence in the world around us. So who are you connected to?

Jesus invites us to be connected to Him and let Him be the one that guides our life. Jesus invites us to have a lasting impact in this world because He is working in, through, and beyond us. If we join up with Him and relinquish control He will shape us into who He designed us to be and we will see impact beyond our limited imagination.

But the truth is that we can't bear fruit, which is that lasting impact, without remaining connected to Jesus.

So how do you do this? You obey His teachings. You follow His guidance. You submit to Him in every area of your being and then He will work through you to bear fruit that is not temporary but eternal, not dependent upon you but reliant upon Him, not artificial but true and good.

TALK IT OVER:

How does it feel to hear that apart from Christ you can bear no fruit or have no lasting positive impact?

What areas of your life do you struggle to "remain in Jesus?"

Why is it hard to let go and allow Jesus to be in control? What is keeping you from letting go of all areas and working from His grace not for His grace?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1) Jeremiah 17:7-8

Day 2) John 11:25-27

Day 3) Romans 6:8-14

Day 4) Matthew 7:15-23

Day 5) Galatians 2:19-21

Day 6) John 14:9-12