



ABOUT HOME GROUPS

Much of what Jesus called us to be and do, we are meant to do together. If you would like to connect in Home Group, check us out online at www.trinityonline.org.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What comes to mind with the idea of living a fruitful life?

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

We're continuing to walk through Jesus' final hours before He goes to the cross (John 13-17). (This passage is sometimes called "The Farewell Discourse" or "The Upper Room Discourse.") For this week, we will focus on John 15:1-17.

The setting is important to our understanding of this section.

- In John 13, Jesus washed the disciple's feet (loved them) and called them to do the same with one another. Then He gave them His "new" command: "love one another."
- In John 14, Jesus told them that He was going back to the Father.
- Jesus commanded them to continue His works, His mission, to reach and make disciples. He promised that this would happen as they believed/trusted in Him.
 - Those who believe in Him would continue His works, His mission (12)
 - He would answer every prayer made in His name. (14)
 - If they love Him, they would obey Him (15, 21, 23-24)
 - He would send "Another helper . . . the Spirit of truth" to live in them (16-18, 26)
 - Jesus again expressed oneness with and submission to the Father (23-26, 28-31)
 - He told them ahead of time so that they would believe/trust Him (29)

Read through John 15:1-17 and consider the following questions.

What is your first impression of this passage and how it fits into Jesus' evening with His people?

Jesus referred to a vine/vineyard. Who did the vineyard represent in the Old Testament? What do we learn about that vine? (Psalm 80:9-16; Isaiah 5:1-4; Jeremiah 2:21)

In Jesus' final "I am" statement in John, He declared that He is the "true" vine. This means that God's covenant is now with and through Jesus. He has taken the place of Israel as God's vine. How is Jesus described as the "true" (genuine) vine in Psalm 80:7-8, 14-17?

How are the branches described in this passage? (2-6)

What is the test that branches are rightly connected to the vine? (2, 4-5, 8, 16)

What does it mean to bear fruit? How is the fruit described? (1-17; see also 14:12)

How is our relationship with Jesus compared with Jesus relationship with the Father? (8-10) How is fruit-bearing a fulfillment of Jesus' work?

What is Jesus' central "command" in this passage? How is this connected to following Jesus command to bear fruit? (15:12,17, cf. 13:14-15, 34)

How might we describe what it looks like to "abide" or "remain?" What are the specific evidences that someone is abiding / remaining in Jesus? (1-17)

Why do you think Jesus addresses the topic of love and friendship at this point of the evening? (12-15)

SELF-REFLECTION

When you read and understand this passage, how do you feel about yourself? Do you feel like you are abiding in Jesus? Do you feel like you are bearing fruit that lasts? Do you feel like you are teaming up with other people to abide and bear fruit together? How can we help each other?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

People have widely varied views about how to relate to God. How is Jesus' relationship with His disciples described in this passage? What should be the result of that relationship?

Jesus made an inconceivable promise in John 14:12. How could we explain how this happens?

These commands are made to multiple people, they are plurals. We are meant to abide together. How does this affect how we view what it means to abide in Jesus? To bear fruit?

How are Jesus' "friends" described? What does it mean to be "friends" with Jesus? How does this fit with Jesus' call to abide/remain in Him?

LET'S ASK

Jesus said, "If you remain (abide) in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you." Let's ask.

- For our elders at Trinity as they pray and seek God's power and direction
- For the women in Women's Ministries as they grow and reach together
- For your adopted Global workers and their needs