

SESSION FOCUS

This final session brings the entire study of Jesus' **"I AM" statements** to its conclusion. In **"I am the true vine,"** Jesus offers an image that gathers everything He has revealed about Himself.

These words are spoken just before His arrest. The disciples are facing fear, loss, and separation. Instead of giving final instructions, Jesus speaks about **remaining, abiding, and staying connected**.

This study invites you to consider faith not as a one-time decision, but as **a life lived in ongoing relationship with Christ**—a life that draws strength, direction, and growth from Him.

OPENING REFLECTION

Before reading, pause and reflect honestly.

- How would you describe your current connection with God?
- What tends to strengthen your faith—and what weakens it?
- When life becomes busy or difficult, what usually gets crowded out?

(You may want to write a few notes before moving on.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **John 15:1–11** slowly.

As you read, pay attention to:

- The repeated word **"abide"** or **"remain"**
- The relationship between the vine and the branches
- What Jesus says about fruit, pruning, and love

Do not rush. Notice which words or images linger with you.

KEY IDEA

Jesus presents Himself as the **source of life and growth**.

Fruitfulness does not come from striving harder, but from **staying connected**.

Christian life is not sustained by effort alone, but by **abiding in Christ**.

PART 1: THE IMAGE OF THE VINE AND BRANCHES



Jesus uses a simple, living image to describe relationship. Branches do not exist on their own—they depend entirely on the vine.

Reflection Questions

- What stands out to you about this image?
- What does it suggest about dependence and trust?
- How is this image different from how people often think about faith?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: I AM THE TRUE VINE

Jesus identifies Himself as the **true source of life**, in contrast to all false or temporary sources.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean that Jesus is the “true” vine?
- What other things do people rely on for meaning or security?
- Where are you most tempted to look for life apart from Christ?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: ABIDING VS. STRIVING

Jesus repeatedly invites His followers to **remain** in Him.

Reflection Questions

- How would you describe the difference between abiding and striving?
- In what ways can faith become about performance or effort?
- What helps you stay connected to Christ in everyday life?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: PRUNING AND GROWTH

Jesus speaks about pruning as part of fruitfulness.

Reflection Questions

- Why do you think pruning is necessary for growth?



- How does this image change the way you view difficulty or loss?
- Where might God be shaping or refining your life right now?

Personal Notes:

PART 5: FRUIT THAT REMAINS

Fruit is the natural result of staying connected to the vine.

Reflection Questions

- What kind of “fruit” do you think Jesus is describing?
- How is fruit different from success or productivity?
- How does love relate to abiding and fruitfulness?

Personal Notes:

LOOKING BACK: THE “I AM” JOURNEY

Take a moment to reflect on the entire series.

- Which “I AM” statement stood out to you most?
- How has your understanding of Jesus grown or shifted?
- What themes connect these statements together?

Personal Notes:

LOOKING FORWARD: LIFE AFTER THIS STUDY

Faith continues beyond this study.

- What does abiding in Christ look like for you moving forward?
- What practices help you remain connected?
- What is one gentle next step you sense God inviting you to take?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

In your own words, or silently, pray for:



- **A deeper connection with Christ**
 - **Trust in God's ongoing work in your life**
 - **Fruit that grows from love, not striving**
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OPTIONAL TAKE-HOME PRACTICE

This week:

- Reread **John 15:4–5** each day
 - Notice when you feel disconnected or rushed
 - Ask yourself: **What helps me remain in Christ today?**
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FINAL THOUGHT

This study does not end with a command, but an invitation.

Jesus does not ask you to produce life on your own.

He invites you to **remain**.

Stay connected.

Let love shape you.

And allow life to grow from Him.

