

Session 8 – I AM the True Vine

John 15:1–11

Jesus' final "I AM" statement
invite us to consider a deeper
question:

**Is faith simply a moment in the
past, or a life lived in ongoing
connection with Him?**



How to Use This Study

This series is designed to be experienced in two stages.

- **Personal Study During the Week**

Each participant reads the Scripture and works through the Study Guide before the group meeting.

- **Group Discussion Together**

When the group gathers, the Facilitator and Student Guides help guide conversation, reflection, and prayer based on the material everyone has already explored.

- This format allows the group to move beyond surface discussion and engage the Bible more deeply together.



Where We Are in John's Gospel

John's Gospel progressively reveals the identity of Jesus.

Each moment builds on the last.

- Session 1 — The Word Became Flesh (John 1)
- Session 2 — I AM the Bread of Life (John 6)
- Session 3 — I AM the Light of the World (John 8)
- Session 4 — I AM the Door (John 10:1–10)
- Session 5 — I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–18)
- Session 6 — I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11)
- Session 7 — I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14)

The disciples are about to experience:

- fear
- confusion
- loss
- separation from Jesus

Before they face that moment, Jesus explains how their life with Him will continue.

The key word in this passage is:

“Remain”



The Final “I AM” Statement

Jesus declares:

¹ ***“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.***

John 15:1

In the Old Testament, Israel was often described as God's vine.
But that vine repeatedly failed to produce the fruit God desired.

Now Jesus reveals something new:

He Himself is the true vine.
Life with God now flows through Him.



The Father as the Gardener

Jesus continues the image.

¹ "I am the true vine, **and my Father is the gardener.**

John 15:1

The Father is the **gardener.**

His role is to care for the vine so it produces fruit.

He does two things:

- removes branches that bear no fruit
- prunes branches that do bear fruit

**Pruning is not punishment.
It is preparation for greater fruitfulness.**



The Central Command

Jesus repeats one command throughout this passage:

⁴ *Remain in me...*

John 15:4, 15:5, 15:6, 15:7

Faith is not simply a moment when someone believes.

Jesus describes faith as a continuing relationship.

It begins with a decision.

But it grows through daily connection with Christ.



Following Jesus Is Ongoing Relationship

Jesus does not say:

“Visit the Vine”

He says

“Remain in the Vine”

This describes a life of:

- ongoing trust
- continual dependence
- daily connection

**Discipleship is not just a past event.
It is a living relationship with Christ.**



The Vine and the Branches

Branches cannot produce life on their own.

They depend completely on the vine.

Everything the branch needs flows from the vine:

- nutrients
- water
- strength
- life

In the same way:
our spiritual life flows from Christ.



Apart From Me You Can Do Nothing

Jesus speaks plainly.

5 *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

Without connection to Christ we cannot produce:

- lasting spiritual fruit
- true transformation
- the life God intends

**The Christian life is not self-powered.
It is Jesus-dependent.**



Eternal Life Begins Now

Eternal life is not only about the future.

**Eternal life begins the moment someone enters
relationship with Christ.**

It is a **new abundant kind of life** that begins now
and continues forever.

Life with God is not postponed until heaven.

It begins today.



The Purpose of the Branches

Branches are not connected to the vine merely to survive.
They are connected to bear fruit.

Jesus says:

⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

John 15:8

Connection to Christ *always* leads to fruitful living.



What Does Fruit Look Like?

Fruit in the Christian life includes:

- Christlike character
 - love for others
 - obedience to Jesus
- spiritual influence in the world

Fruit is not manufactured by effort alone.

It grows naturally from **remaining in Christ.**

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22-23



Remaining in His Love

Jesus explains the heart of abiding.

9 *“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.*

John 15:9

The Christian life is not built on fear.
It is built on relationship and love.



The Command: Love

Jesus comes back to the heart of the Gospel:

¹¹ This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you... ¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

John 15:11, 16-17

The greatest witness of our abiding in Him is how we treat others.

We show His love like this:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER



The Result: Joy

Jesus concludes this teaching with a promise.

11 *I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*

John 15:16-17

Abiding in Christ produces:

• life • love • fruitfulness • joy



The Invitation

Jesus invites us into a life of:

- **connection**• **dependence**• **relationship**

The life we long for cannot be created through effort.
It is received through remaining in Him.

The only question remaining now is:
Will YOU accept His invitation?





SERIES CONCLUSION



The Seven “I Am” Statements

Throughout John’s Gospel Jesus reveals who He is.

1. Bread of Life
2. Light of the World
3. The Door
4. The Good Shepherd
5. The Resurrection and the Life
6. The Way, the Truth, and the Life
7. The True Vine

Each statement reveals another dimension of His identity.

Together they show who Jesus truly is.



What We Have Seen in This Study

Jesus is not simply a teacher or prophet.

He is:

The Bread that satisfies

The Light that guides

The Shepherd who protects

The Resurrection who conquers death

The Way to the Father and

The Vine who gives life.

In Jesus we encounter God Himself.



The Invitation of the Gospel

Throughout this study, Jesus has extended the same invitation:

Come to Me.

Trust Me.

Follow Me.

Remain in Me.

**The Christian life is not about mastering ideas.
It is about living in relationship with Christ.**

THE INVITATION STANDS.

¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

