

Connecting to Jesus

READ: John 15:1-5

¹ "I am the true grapevine, and My Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me.

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."

REFLECT: What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Remain in Me"?

Staying connected to Jesus.

Have you ever seen a branch that has been broken off of a tree or a vine? What happens to it? That's right, it withers up and dies. Can it ever have any fruit on it again? No, it isn't any good for anything -- except fire wood.

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in Me, you will have much fruit, but apart from Me, you can do nothing." Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit, like being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, He wants us to love others as He has loved us.

Can we do that on our own? No way. Just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us. Some ways we can do this are by reading the Bible, praying to Him for guidance and going to a church that teaches the truth about Him.

RESPOND: What is your plan to stay connected to Jesus?

Thank God for _____

Pray for _____