

March
24/25

I
AM
the vine

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Introduction

In this series, we have discussed how Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Gate, the Good Shepherd, and the Way, the Truth and the Life. This week's message is on Jesus' statement in John 15:5: *I am the vine*. In this sixth week of the *I Am* series, Pastor Jesse explains how Jesus is uniquely the vine. Apart from Jesus, we are barren, dead branches. Only with Jesus can we thrive and bear spiritual fruit.

Discussion

1. **Reread John 15** as a group. According to John 15:4, Jesus told His disciples to remain, or abide, in Him. What does it mean to "remain in Jesus"? What are some outward signs and inward changes that happen to someone when they "remain in Jesus"?
2. **Galatians 5:22-23** lists the fruit of the Spirit. How do these verses relate to the verses in John 15? Jesus is the vine, God the Father prunes the branches, and the Holy Spirit in us produces the fruit. Describe, then, what it would mean to be "alive in Christ."
3. Take some time to go around your group and share one fruit of the Spirit that you see in each member. How do they demonstrate this quality in their lives and use it for God's glory?
4. Have you ever had a time when you felt dry or like a dead branch, apart from Jesus? How did you overcome this struggle? If you are still in a dry spot, have your group pray for you to get connected to the "true vine."

Think About It

Focus on this message as presented in the J. B. Phillips New Testament: *"I am the real vine, my Father is the vine-dresser. He removes any of my branches which are not bearing fruit and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit to increase its yield. Now, you have already been pruned by my words. You must go on growing in me and I will grow in you. For just as the branch cannot bear any fruit unless it shares the life of the vine, so you can produce nothing unless you go on growing in me. I am the vine itself, you are the branches. It is the man who shares my life and whose life I share who proves fruitful. For the plain fact is that apart from me you can do nothing at all. The man who does not share my life is like a branch that is broken off and withers away. He becomes just like the dry sticks that men pick up and use for the firewood. But if you live your life in me, and my words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like and it will come true for you. This is how my Father will be glorified—in your becoming fruitful and being my disciples."*

Do Something

1. This week, prepare your heart for Easter by spending time alone with God and in prayer. Pick one of the Gospels, such as Mark, and read through the last days of Jesus. Write out your prayers to God and listen for His promptings on your heart.
2. In Discussion question #4, if there was someone in your group who was going through a dry spell with God, take some time to pray for them and find a way to encourage them through a phone call, text, coffee break, etc.
3. Be prepared to bring someone with you to one of the upcoming Easter services at your campus as the Spirit nudges you during your alone time with God.