STUDY BIBLE WORKBOOK

John 15

The True Vine and Lasting Fruit

QUICK STUDY + DEEP DIVE

Jesus calls His disciples to remain in Him as branches in the true vine, to bear lasting fruit, love one another, and testify by the Spirit, even when others oppose them.

Scripture quotations: World English Bible Classic (WEB)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Quick Study: Begin with the chapter overview, Bible words, Greek pronunciation, Gospel Connection, and prayer.

Deep Dive: Eight Scripture-first SOAP passages include all 27 WEB verses, substantial observations, applications, guided prayers, and full-width writing lines.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

John 15 — Geographic Setting

John 15 continues Jesus' farewell teaching in the Jerusalem setting before His arrest. The text does not give the precise room, courtyard, vineyard, or walking route. The vine is a teaching illustration, not a named vineyard on this map.



Original WGM regional atlas reused as a shared asset; no exact supper-room site is asserted.

Regional location



COUNTRIES IN YEAR 2020

Jerusalem: The final Passover narrative provides the wider setting for Jesus' farewell words.

The conversation: John 15 names no street, house, or confirmed supper-room site.

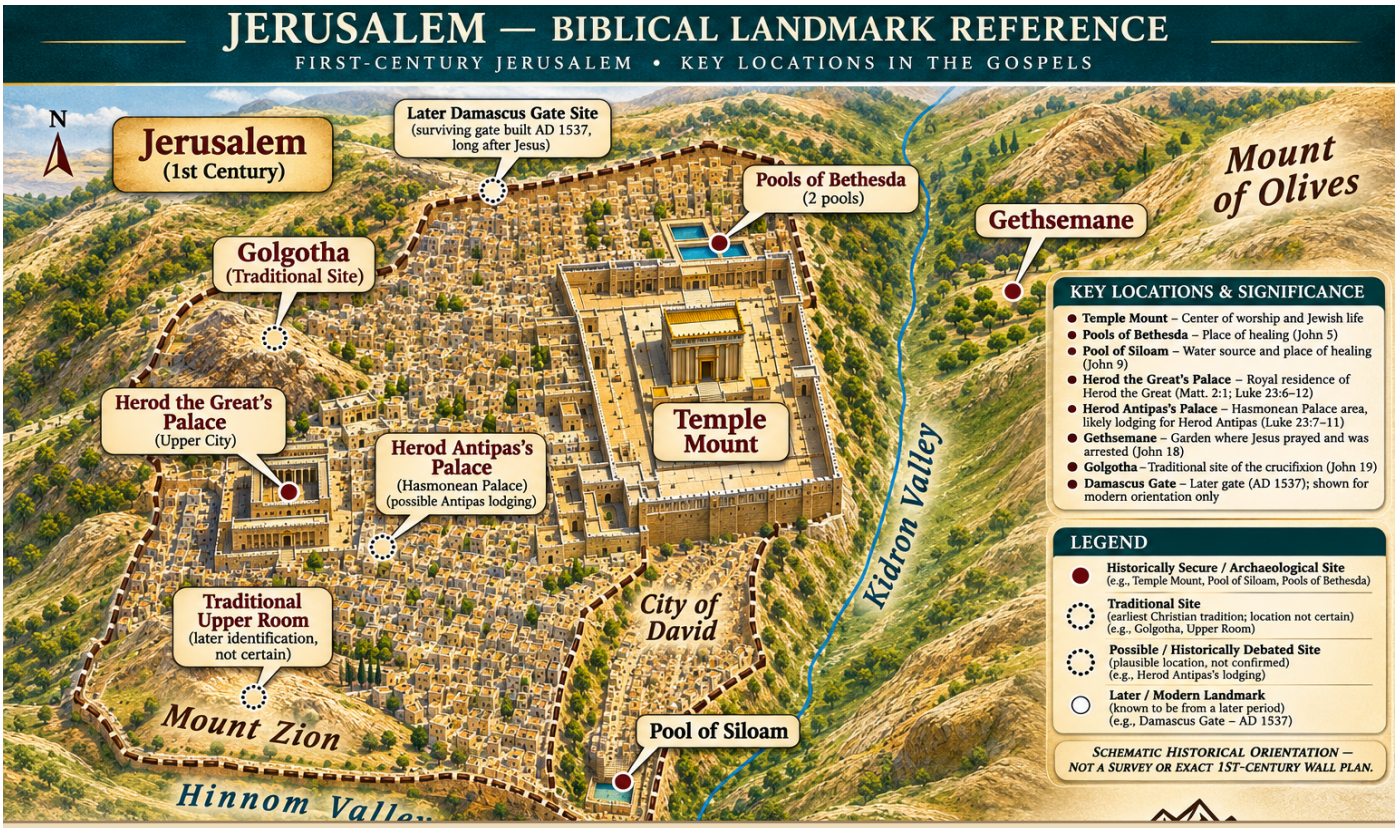
Vine imagery: The true vine is a metaphor for life in Christ; John 15 does not identify a vineyard location.

Mount of Olives: A nearby geographical landmark for orientation, though not named in John 15.

Map caution: The highlighted area identifies Jerusalem generally; no departure route is drawn.

Jerusalem — A Setting for Farewell Teaching

Jesus' teaching about the true vine and His disciples continues the farewell discourse. The Jerusalem landmarks provide context for the coming arrest and cross. The text does not identify the exact room or vineyard. The traditional Upper Room is a later identification, not a confirmed first-century coordinate.



SCHEMATIC ORIENTATION — NOT TO SCALE

Palace/lodging and gate identifications are qualified; city walls and buildings are illustrative.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

READ THE TEXT WITH THE MAP

Farewell teaching

The words follow John 13–14 in the final Passover setting. John 15 gives no new named place.

Gethsemane and Golgotha

These landmarks help situate the approaching arrest and crucifixion (John 18–19), not a route given in John 15.

Traditional sites

The Upper Room, Golgotha, and some palace identifications have different levels of historical certainty; the illustration is schematic.

My notes about the setting:

John 15 — The True Vine and Lasting Fruit

MAIN VERSE

John 15:5, WEB: I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

BIG PICTURE

Jesus is the true vine, the only source of lasting spiritual fruit. The Father lovingly tends His people; the disciples must remain in Christ and His words. Jesus connects abiding with prayer, love, joyful obedience, and sacrificial friendship. He chose and appointed His disciples to bear enduring fruit. Even as He warns them of opposition, He promises the Spirit of truth who will testify about Him. The chapter calls readers to depend on Christ rather than their own strength.

The True Vine (15:1–3)

The Father tends branches; the Son is the source of life and fruit.

Remain in Christ (15:4–6)

Disciples cannot produce spiritual fruit apart from Jesus.

Prayer and Fruit (15:7–8)

His words shape our prayers; fruit glorifies the Father.

Love and Joy (15:9–11)

Obedience flows from love and leads into Christ’s joy.

QUICK STUDY NOTES

The Chapter’s Major Movements

Love as Jesus Loved (15:12–15)

He lays down His life and calls His followers friends.

Appointed for Lasting Fruit (15:16–17)

Christ calls His people to enduring service and love.

Hatred and Faithful Witness (15:18–21)

His disciples may suffer opposition because they belong to Him.

The Spirit Testifies (15:22–27)

Rejection is serious; the Counselor and disciples bear witness to Christ.

QUICK STUDY FLOW

Jesus is the true vine

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The Father tends the branches

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Remain in Christ for fruit

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Let His word shape prayer

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Remain in His love and joy

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Love like the self-giving Savior

↓

Bear lasting fruit as His witnesses

↓

Trust the Spirit amid opposition

QUICK STUDY NOTES

Important Bible Words

Word / Phrase	Simple Meaning	Why It Matters
True vine	Jesus as the true source of life	Israel’s vine imagery finds its faithful fulfillment in Him.
Branches	People represented as joined to the vine	Fruit depends on living connection to Christ.
Pruning	Care that promotes healthier fruit	The Father works for spiritual growth.
Remain / abide	Continue in living fellowship with Jesus	Repeated command at the center of the chapter.
Fruit	Visible results of spiritual life	Character, obedience, love, and witness glorify God.
Love	Christlike care and sacrificial action	Jesus supplies both the model and command.
Friends	Disciples receiving the Lord’s purposes	Intimacy with Jesus never cancels obedience.
World	Human life organized in opposition to God	Not a label for a particular ethnicity or everyone outside the church.
Counselor / Helper	The promised Holy Spirit	He bears witness to Christ and sustains faithful testimony.

Which word in John 15 most helps me understand dependence, love, and lasting fruit?

Translation Word Notes

Pronunciations are approximate classroom-style Biblical Greek. CAPITAL letters show the stressed syllable. Greek helps clarify meaning but is not required for understanding Scripture. NKJV/NIV/NLT phrases are brief comparisons; full Scripture quotations remain WEB.

Verse	Greek & pronunciation	NKJV	NIV	NLT	Meaning in context
15:1	ampelos ahm-PEH-los	vine	vine	grapevine	Christ is the source of life and fruitfulness.
15:1	geōrgos geh-or-GOS	vinedresser	gardener	gardener	The Father tends and cares for the vine.
15:2	klēma KLAY-mah	branch	branch	branch	A dependent shoot connected to the vine.
15:2	kathairō kah-THAI-roh	prunes	prunes	prunes	Cleans or prunes for increased fruitfulness.
15:4	menō MEH-noh	abide	remain	remain	Continue to dwell in faithful dependence.
15:5	karpos KAR-pos	fruit	fruit	fruit	Outcome of Christ’s life in His people.
15:7	rhēma RAY-mah	words	words	words	Jesus’ teaching shaping faithful prayer.
15:9	agapē ah-GAH-pay	love	love	love	Self-giving care rooted in Christ’s love.
15:11	chara khah-RAH	joy	joy	joy	Christ’s joy shared with His disciples.
15:14	philos FEE-los	friends	friends	friends	Closeness with Christ in faithful discipleship.
15:16	eklegomai ehk-LEH-goh-my	chose	chose	chose	Jesus’ initiating call to His disciples.
15:26	paraklētos pah-RAH-klay-tos	Helper	Advocate	Advocate	The Holy Spirit who testifies about Christ.

Word-study notes:

The Gospel Connection

John 15 is not a self-improvement plan. The true vine is Jesus Christ, the Son who gives His life for His friends (15:13). Fallen people cannot create spiritual life by determination or religious achievement. We are called to receive and remain in the Savior, trusting His sacrifice and resurrection. His word shapes us; His love moves us toward obedience; and the Father cultivates fruit that glorifies Him. Though the world may resist Christ, believers are not abandoned: the Spirit of truth testifies about Jesus and strengthens the witness of His people. Our confidence is in the living Lord, not our independent strength (15:5; 20:31).

Reflection: Am I remaining in Jesus and allowing His words to shape my love, prayer, and witness?

A Short Prayer from John 15

Lord Jesus, You are the true vine and the source of my life. Forgive me for trying to produce spiritual fruit apart from You. Teach me to remain in Your word and love. Shape my prayers, give me joy in obedience, and help me love others as You have loved me. Strengthen my witness by Your Spirit. In Your name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

QUICK STUDY COMPLETE

One Truth to Carry With You

Apart from Jesus I can do nothing; remaining in His love produces lasting fruit and faithful witness.

READY TO GO DEEPER — NEXT PAGE

Ready to Go Deeper?

This Deep Dive follows S.O.A.P.: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Begin with the complete WEB passage. Let the text set the terms of our study, then consider the explanation, respond personally, and pray.

S — Scripture

Read every verse slowly; note changes in speaker, setting, and what Jesus reveals about Himself.

O — Observation

What does John reveal about Jesus' identity, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the way of faith?

A — Application

What should I believe, confess, obey, trust, or share in response to the passage?

P — Prayer

Respond prayerfully to what the passage actually says, not imagined motives or events.

Before I begin, what does it mean to remain in Jesus and bear lasting fruit?

Questions and repeated words to watch for:

JOHN 15:1–3

The True Vine and the Father’s Care

S — Scripture

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer.
2 Every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
3 You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 15:1–3, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus identifies Himself as the true vine and the Father as the farmer. In Israel’s Scriptures, a vine could symbolize God’s people (Isaiah 5:1–7; Psalm 80:8–16). Jesus now presents Himself as the faithful source of life and fruitfulness for His disciples.

The Father removes fruitless branches and prunes fruitful ones. The Greek verbs for taking away and pruning invite careful study, but the central point is unmistakable: connection with Jesus must be more than an outward appearance, and the Father tends the vine for fruit.

Jesus says His disciples are already clean because of His word. The cleansing language recalls His earlier teaching about washing (John 13:10); it is not an invitation to earn cleansing through performance.

My observations:

A — Application

When I think about God’s pruning, do I see the Father’s care for growth, or only difficulty?

P — Prayer

Father, thank You that You tend Your people wisely. Keep me rooted in Jesus and teach me to receive Your correction humbly.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:4–6

Remain in Me

S — Scripture

4 Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch can’t bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so
neither can you, unless you remain in me.
5 I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart
from me you can do nothing.
6 If a man doesn’t remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them,
throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:4–6, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

A branch cannot produce fruit independently from the vine. Jesus commands His disciples to remain in Him; this describes ongoing dependence, faith, and fellowship rather than self-generated spiritual achievement.

Fruit comes from Christ’s life at work in His people. Good works, holy character, love, and witness arise from abiding in Him; the chapter does not teach that outward activity can replace a living relationship with the Savior.

The withered-branch and fire imagery is a serious warning, not a small issue to explain away. Evangelical Christians differ about its implications for the perseverance of believers, but both the warning and the call to remain must be taken seriously.

My observations:

A — Application

What am I attempting apart from Christ that needs to become a matter of prayerful dependence?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep my heart near You. Expose empty religious activity and produce in me the fruit of genuine faith.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:7–8

Fruit, Prayer, and the Father’s Glory

S — Scripture

7 If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you.
8 “In this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples.

John 15:7–8, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Remaining in Jesus includes having His words remain in us. Prayer is shaped by His teaching and purposes, not reduced to claiming any outcome we desire.

Jesus connects fruitful discipleship to the glory of the Father. He does not point His followers toward visible success for its own sake, but toward a life that honors God.

The command to remain and the promise of answered prayer belong together: listening to Christ forms the desires we bring before the Father.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I allow Jesus’ words to shape the requests I bring to God this week?

P — Prayer

Father, shape my desires by Jesus’ word. Make my life fruitful so that the glory belongs to You.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:9–11

Remain in My Love and Joy

S — Scripture

9 Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love.
10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.
11 I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full.

John 15:9–11, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus compares His love for His disciples with the Father’s love for Him. The source of Christian love is not our emotional steadiness, but the love revealed by the Son.

Remaining in Christ’s love is connected with keeping His commands, just as Jesus obeys His Father. Obedience is the expression of genuine love, not the purchase price of acceptance before God.

Jesus teaches for the sake of full joy. His promised joy does not erase grief or persecution; He speaks these words while approaching the cross.

My observations:

A — Application

What command of Jesus would I obey today as an expression of love rather than mere duty?

P — Prayer

Jesus, thank You for loving me. Teach me joyful obedience that grows from Your grace and not from fear.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:12–15

Love One Another as I Have Loved You

S — Scripture

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
14 You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.
15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn’t know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you.

John 15:12–15, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus defines the pattern for love: His own costly, self-giving love. He will soon lay down His life, making verse 13 more than an inspiring motto.

Jesus calls His disciples friends and makes the Father’s purposes known to them. Friendship here does not cancel Jesus’ lordship; the same Lord commands His followers to obey Him.

Love for one another is not just affectionate speech. It takes form in truthful service, sacrifice, forgiveness, and the well-being of other believers.

My observations:

A — Application

What concrete act of costly, Christlike love can I offer someone this week?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for laying down Your life. Teach me to love my brothers and sisters with action and truth.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:16–17

Chosen and Appointed to Bear Lasting Fruit

S — Scripture

16 You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that
your fruit should remain; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
17 “I command these things to you, that you may love one another.

John 15:16–17, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus reminds His first disciples that He took the initiative in choosing and appointing them. In its immediate setting this speaks to those He sends as witnesses, not to human boasting.

The appointed outcome is fruit that remains. The emphasis is faithful service rooted in relationship with Christ, not impressive statistics or a self-made reputation.

Jesus repeats the command to love one another. Fruitful ministry and genuine love cannot be separated from the One who sends His disciples.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I serve where Jesus has placed me without making recognition or results my identity?

P — Prayer

Father, thank You that Christ calls His people to fruitful service. Keep love at the center of all I do.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:18–21

When the World Hates His Disciples

S — Scripture

18 If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you.
19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, since I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his lord.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
21 But they will do all these things to you for my name’s sake, because they don’t know him who sent me.

John 15:18–21, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus warns that some will oppose His followers because they first rejected Him. “World” here describes humanity in rebellion against God; it must not be turned into blanket hostility toward a nation, ethnicity, or everyone outside the church.

Being chosen out of the world changes a disciple’s allegiance. It does not authorize pride, cruelty, or withdrawal from loving those who disagree.

The servant is not greater than the master. Some will reject the message, but Jesus also says others will keep the disciples’ word. The church’s task is faithful witness, not controlling every response.

My observations:

A — Application

When I meet disagreement or rejection, how can I answer with courage, patience, and love?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, strengthen me to remain faithful when I am misunderstood. Help me honor You without hatred or fear.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 15:22–27

Rejecting the Son, and the Spirit’s Witness

S — Scripture

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.
23 He who hates me, hates my Father also.
24 If I hadn’t done among them the works which no one else did, they wouldn’t have had sin. But now they have seen and also hated both me and my Father.
25 But this happened so that the word may be fulfilled which was written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’
26 “When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me.
27 You will also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:22–27, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus’ words and extraordinary works increase the responsibility of those who have directly encountered Him. He is not teaching that people otherwise have no sin; He is exposing the culpability of rejecting the revelation they have received.

The quotation “They hated me without a cause” places opposition to Jesus in the story of Scripture. The words must not be used to assign collective guilt to Jewish people; Jesus, His disciples, and the earliest church were Jewish.

Jesus promises the Counselor, the Spirit of truth, who will testify about Him. The first disciples will also testify because they were with Jesus from the beginning. This grounds Christian witness in the Holy Spirit and the apostles’ direct testimony, now preserved in Scripture.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I speak truthfully about Jesus while depending on the Holy Spirit rather than my own persuasion?

P — Prayer

Holy Spirit, bear witness to Christ and help me speak His truth faithfully, courageously, and lovingly.

Pray this in your own words:

Hard Questions

What does Jesus mean by “the true vine”?

Vine imagery recalls God’s care for Israel (Isaiah 5; Psalm 80). Jesus presents Himself as the faithful, life-giving vine. Fruit comes through Him, not through ancestry, outward religion, or independent effort.

Does pruning mean every hardship is God punishing me?

No. Jesus says the Father prunes for fruitfulness, but we should not label every injury, illness, or tragedy as a specific divine punishment. The wider Bible calls believers to trust God’s wise care and seek His help in suffering.

What does “remain in me” mean practically?

Continuing trust in Jesus, receiving His word, prayerful dependence, obedience, and life among His people. These are expressions of fellowship with Christ, not techniques for earning salvation.

Do fruitless branches prove a true believer can lose salvation?

Evangelicals differ: some see a warning about those merely outwardly attached; others emphasize a real warning against apostasy. Both must take Jesus’ command to remain and His warning seriously. The chapter is not permission for shallow assurance or hopeless fear.

Questions and study notes:

Hard Questions (continued)

What kind of fruit should disciples bear?

John 15 highlights love, obedience, prayer aligned with Christ's words, and faithful testimony. Elsewhere Scripture speaks of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). Fruit is more than measurable activity.

Does John 15:7 promise anything I ask for?

Jesus joins answered prayer to remaining in Him and His words remaining in us. Faithful prayer is shaped by Christ's will and the Father's glory, not by treating the verse as a blank check.

Is obedience how we earn Christ's love?

No. Jesus first says He has loved His disciples (15:9). His command is to remain in that love, with obedience as its expression. Salvation rests on grace, not the perfection of our effort.

Is the love of friends more important than love of enemies?

Jesus gives a special command for His disciples to love one another, while elsewhere teaching love for enemies (Matthew 5:44). The commands reinforce, rather than cancel, each other.

Questions and study notes:

Hard Questions (continued)

Does “you didn’t choose me” settle every debate about election?

It clearly teaches Jesus’ initiative in choosing and appointing the disciples addressed. Christians hold different views about how this relates to individual salvation. The immediate application emphasizes humble, fruitful service.

Does opposition mean we are always being faithful?

No. Jesus predicts hatred for His name, but some negative reactions come from our own lack of wisdom or kindness. We should examine ourselves and continue speaking the truth in love (1 Peter 3:15–16).

Who is the “world” Jesus describes?

In this setting the world is people opposed to Christ’s revelation. The term is not a racial, national, or ethnic category; it does not justify hostility toward outsiders. God loved the world and sent His Son (John 3:16).

What is the Holy Spirit’s testimony?

Jesus promises the Counselor, the Spirit of truth, who will testify about Him; the first apostles also testify as eyewitnesses. The Spirit never directs us to replace Jesus with an unrelated message.

Questions and study notes:

Reflection

Where am I trying to produce spiritual fruit through my own strength rather than remaining in Jesus?

What loving act toward another believer would reflect Christ’s self-giving love?

How can Jesus’ words reshape my prayers and priorities this week?

How will I respond in truth and love when faith in Christ is misunderstood?

A Prayer for Abiding, Love, and Witness

Father, thank You for sending the true Vine, Your Son Jesus Christ. I confess that I cannot create spiritual life or lasting fruit by my own effort. Forgive my pride, impatience, and lovelessness. Help me remain in Christ through His word and daily dependence. When You prune my life, give me humility and wisdom. Teach me to obey from love, pray for Your glory, and care sacrificially for Your people. When I face opposition, keep me truthful and gentle. Holy Spirit, testify of Jesus through my words and actions. May all the fruit of my life point others to the Savior. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

ONE TRUTH TO CARRY WITH YOU

Apart from Jesus I can do nothing; remaining in His love produces lasting fruit and faithful witness.

Final Notes