

# I AM.

the vine | the light of the world | the door | the bread of life | the resurrection

Devotional  
Study

Week 1:  
The Vine

## Scripture:

John 15:1-8 ESV

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

## Observation:

Let's explore the definition of abide:

To wait for-We as Christians need to spend much more time waiting on God. By this we mean spending time with God, seeking His will, not jumping ahead of Him.

To endure without yielding-To be determined to experience God's presence.

To bear patiently-To abide in Christ when we don't feel like it. To be patient waiting for God to reveal His will and Himself.

To continue in a place-We need to spend more time, staying in His presence.

If we are abiding in Christ, we can be assured that we will walk IN HIS STEPS.

Abiding in Christ is a process. We don't get there overnight. So don't get discouraged if it seems hard to just 'rest in Him'.

***How do we abide in Christ? What are some real life examples for your life?***

***What is meant by the phrase "bearing fruit?" What is meant by "every branch that does bear fruit he prunes?"***

## Application:

Usually people give something up for the season of Lent. The reason we give up things for Lent is meant to be to deny ourselves, to prepare ourselves for Easter and the death and resurrection of Jesus. To make a small sacrifice in order to remember and connect with the huge sacrifice Jesus made for us.

But there's more to Lent than simply giving things up. It's also about taking positive action.

When we choose what we are going to do for Lent, there has to be some kind of purpose to it. We need to be thinking about **positive action** that we take.

That's because Lent is not just about giving things up, but taking **positive steps** in our faith. Making decisions not just to give things up, but to take positive action that may involve sacrifice and giving something up, but will ultimately focus our attention back to our relationship with God.

One area we can make sure we do this is deciding what we can do with the extra time we have from giving something up.

This week's focus is feeling disconnected. One thing that connects us to God is prayer. This week you can focus on your prayer life, making space for prayer time, or finding extra time for prayer in your life. You can try different methods of prayer or even try praying with others.

## Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have commanded me and given me grace to love one another as you have loved me. As I do this, I will abide in You, and You in me. Otherwise I cannot bear fruit. Apart from you I can do nothing. You have made a way for me. You have poured out your love in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and I can remain in your love. I thank You that through You I will bear much fruit. Amen.

*This week's devotion was written by Alex Wright.*