

Dig Deeper into John 15#1 for personal study and Life Groups...

John 15: the total importance of Jesus

1) No fruit without Jesus! V1-2a	2) More fruit with Jesus' pruning! V2b-3
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Summary: Stick with Jesus!
V4

We have three sermons in this series on John 15 (a passage which focuses on one of the famous “I am” sayings of Jesus in John’s gospel)...

- 21st April v1-4 (All Age)
- 28th April v5-8
- 5th May v9-17

This dig deeper focuses on the first two passages, and next week’s will focus on the last one in preparation for the final sermon.

1. **Opening discussion:** In what sense do you long to be pleasing and useful to God? (How do Galatians 5:22-23 and Matt 3:8 and Colossians 1:6 help discern the wider biblical picture of what kind of fruit God is looking for?)

Read John 5:1-17

2. In the light of the fact that the OT speaks of Israel as a **Vine** (see references below), what unique and bold claim is Jesus making in verse 1? What are the implications of this for evangelism and for Christian discipleship?
3. What two **activities** does the Father do to achieve the fruit he is looking for v2? What do you think these look like in practice? Charlie said that the pruning could be from suffering in general (1 Peter 1:6-9) and and/or from the Scriptures (Neh 8:9 and v3) that interpret our sufferings and tell us what God is trying to teach us! Do you have any experience of pruning in the past? How was it for your good (Heb 12: 4-11)? So what might God be doing in your life right now?
4. Preparing ahead for next Sunday’s sermon (v5-8) what does it mean in practice to “remain in Christ”? How can you put v7 **into practice** over the next 8 days?

Resources...

- For **further reading** on OT Vine imagery (failed-lhs and promised -rhs) see:
 - Psalm 80:8-16
 - Psalm 80:17-18
 - Isaiah 5:1-7
 - Isaiah 27:2-6
 - Jeremiah 2:21
 - Hosea 14:7
- For the full versions of the zoom interviews with **Henry the vinegrower** see [here](#).
- “[All that we have we have in Christ](#)”- loads of Bible verses on the **blessings that flow out of our union with Christ** (with thanks to Dan Halpin of Emmanuel Church Canterbury).
- **Confused?** There are a couple of things that could be easily misunderstood in our passage today. An 11min podcast from Charlie including a couple of conundrums (v1,2,7) can be found [here](#).