



## I Am the True Vine

**James 1:2 (NIV)** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

**John 15:1-8 (NIV)** I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>3</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful.<sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**Psalms 80:8-9, 16 (NIV)** You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. <sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. <sup>16</sup>Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish."

**Isaiah 5:2 (NIV)** Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

Jesus IS what we CANNOT be.

God's desire is to produce MORE FRUIT.

Getting pruned does not mean we did something WRONG.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control.

## Spiritual Fruit

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

Trials and pruning are God's way of producing ALL of the fruit.

## ATTITUDE AND PERSPECTIVE

**John 15:16-17 (NIV)** You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

## Additional Notes:

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## scriptures that relate

Monday: John 15	Wednesday: Philippians 1:9-11	Friday: Isaiah 5
Tuesday: Matthew 7:15-20	Thursday: Psalm 80	Saturday: James 1

## small groups—talk it over

1. What has been your perspective, up to this point, when going through difficult times? Do you feel loved or does it feel more like punishment?
2. How is your connection to the True Vine? What things can you focus on to strengthen that connection?
3. When you see the list of spiritual fruit, how does it feel to know that God is trying to harvest ALL of these in ALL of us?
4. What are some areas where you feel you are being pruned? What "fruit" is God trying to grow in you?

## mission's prayer requests

- Monday:** Pray for our Global Mission and Nazarene Compassionate colleagues as they travel.
- Tuesday:** Pray for a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to move through our churches around the world.
- Wednesday:** Pray for God to stir hearts to go on a Work & Witness trip or to serve in ministry.
- Thursday:** Praise God for churches that carry the mission of Christ despite trying circumstances.
- Friday:** Pray for our outreach to Rocky Mt. Elementary so that the love of Christ will shine brightly.
- Saturday:** Pray for all Christ followers that we take seriously our call to share Christ with others.