

# The Gospel According to John: The Passion of the Christ

## Lesson 23: The Vine and the Branches

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### Background

During the Passion Week, Jesus is focused on instructing his apostles. He has comforted them, elaborated on His oneness with the Father, and described the role of the Holy Spirit. Now He talks about the importance of them staying connected to Him, just like branches connected to a vine.

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### The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-17)

#### ► Explore It

1. How are Jesus and the Father related? (15:1)
2. How does a gardener tend to branches that bear fruit & branches that do not? (15:2)
3. What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? (15:4)
4. Who are the branches? (15:5)
5. What did Jesus say would happen to branches that did not remain in Him? (15:6)
6. What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? (15:7)
7. What would be demonstrated by the disciples' bearing much fruit? (15:8)
- \* 8. What did Jesus urge His disciples to do? (15:9)
9. How were Jesus' disciples to remain in His love? (15:10)
10. Why did Jesus talk with His disciples about vines and branches? (15:11)
11. What command did Jesus give His disciples? (15:12)
- \* 12. What is the greatest manifestation of love? (15:13)
13. Who did Jesus say were His friends? (15:14)
- \* 14. Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? (15:15)
15. Why did Jesus choose His disciples? (15:16)
16. What was Jesus' command? (15:17)

#### ► Get It

17. How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?
18. What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?
19. How are we to bear fruit?
- \* 20. When is it difficult to develop and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?

#### ► Apply It

21. What steps can you take to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ?
  - \* 22. How can you be a better friend to Jesus beginning today?
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### Related Questions

- \* How does the word make one “clean”? (15:3) \* What kind of love can be commanded? (15:12)
- \* The command to abide in Jesus implies that it's possible for a person in Christ to be lost. (15:4)  
What other evidence is there in the Bible that this is possible?

Note: Study guides for this series of lessons are available on the Internet at [www.howellfamily.us/john.htm](http://www.howellfamily.us/john.htm)