



Topeka Bible Church
NextStep, Message #14:
"Your Next Spiritual Step: Abide in Christ – But How?"
Community Group Study Questions
John 15:1-8 and selected passages

1. What does Jesus mean that He is the "true vine" and God the Father is the "gardener" (NIV) or "vinedresser" (NASB; *John 15:1*; cf. *Psalm 80:8-11*)? What does it mean to "bear fruit" for God (*John 15:2*; *Titus 3:14*)?
2. Do you view your life as "fruitful?" Why or why not? What might a "fruitful" life look like (*Psalm 1:2-3*; *Galatians 5:22*)? According to Jesus, what is the secret to bearing fruit as a branch in God's vine (*John 15:3-4*)?
3. What does "remaining/abiding" in Jesus Christ look like practically (*John 8:31*; *Psalm 1:2*)? Why does this require extreme humility on our parts? Why do we so often resist "remaining" in Jesus Christ week in and week out?
4. What happens to those branches that do not remain in Jesus Christ (*John 15:6*)? Does this language sound harsh (cf. *Matthew 3:10-12*)? Why is abiding in Christ such an important issue to God?

5. Is Jesus saying that we can ask for whatever we want in *John 15:7* (*Matthew 7:7*), or is He making another point (cf. *John 15:8, 16*)? What is the connection between asking for “whatever we want” and bearing fruit?

6. How is God’s glory connected to our bearing of fruit (*John 15:8; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)? What does this fruit prove and why is this important? What are the rewards for abiding in Christ (*John 15:11*)?

Spiritual Growth
(UP) 

7. **NextStep APPLICATION:** How will you specifically abide in Christ this week (cf. *John 14:15; 15:10*)? Knowing that “abiding” (or discipleship) is a process, who can you ask to help you through this process? Pray for God to continue His “good work” in your life this week (*Philippians 1:6*).

Memory Verse:

**“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him,
he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”**

(John 15:5, NIV)

nextStep 