SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 15

The True Vine

NAME _____ DATE _____

KEY VERSE · JOHN 15:5 · NASB

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

On the way out of the upper room Jesus pictures His life in His people as a vine and its branches. Then He tells them the world will hate them. The disciples say nothing in this chapter; it is all Jesus speaking.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 15 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 15. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
abide / abides		
fruit		
love / loved / loves		
hate / hated / hates		
world		
chose		

JOHN 15:1–8 The Vine

1 OBSERVE

Who is the vine, who is the vinedresser, and what does the vinedresser do with fruitless and fruitful branches (15:1–2)?

2 INTERPRET

Read Psalm 80:8 and Isaiah 5:1–7. Why does Jesus call Himself the “true” vine?

3 OBSERVE

What does Jesus say a branch can do apart from Him (15:5)?

4 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Who are the branches thrown away and burned (15:6)? Guzik: “The branches that are taken away were never properly abiding in the vine.” Henry: “Unfruitful professors are unfaithful professors.” Arminian readers see real believers who can fall away. What does everyone agree on?

5 INTERPRET

What does it mean to abide? Look at 15:7 and 15:10.

6 APPLY

Spurgeon: “What a mercy it is to the believer that it is pruning with him and not cutting off!” Where is the Father pruning you right now?

JOHN 15:9–11 Abide in My Love

7 OBSERVE

How does Jesus love His disciples, how do they abide in His love, and why is He telling them this (15:9–11)?

8 INTERPRET

Sproul: "First, the joy that Jesus wants to see in us is His joy." How is that joy different from happiness?

JOHN 15:12–17 Friends

9 OBSERVE

What is the greatest love (15:13)? What does Jesus now call His disciples, and why (15:15)?

10 INTERPRET

"You did not choose Me but I chose you" (15:16). What did He choose and appoint them for?

11 APPLY

Spurgeon: "Familiarity with Jesus ceases when we become familiar with known sin." What known sin is getting in the way of your friendship with Jesus?

JOHN 15:18–25 The World's Hatred

12 OBSERVE

Why will the world hate the disciples (15:18–19)?

13 INTERPRET

Jesus says if He had not come and spoken, "they would not have sin" (15:22). Does that mean those who never heard are sinless?

14 APPLY

Spurgeon: "Indifference with regard to Christ is a clear impossibility." Where have you felt the world's hatred, or avoided it by blending in?

JOHN 15:26–27 The Witness

15 OBSERVE

Who will testify about Jesus, and who else will testify (15:26–27)?

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

16 WORD *menō* · G3306 · to remain, stay, dwell

"Abide" fills 15:4–10, and "remain" in 15:16 is the same word. What does staying connected to Jesus look like in your ordinary week?

17 WORD *kathairō* · G2508 · to cleanse, to prune

"He prunes" (15:2) and "you are already clean" (15:3) share a root. How does God use His word to prune you?

PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 15 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.