

Bible Stories for Adults

Final Preparations for the Disciples

John 15 - 16

Opening

- Gathering: How do you know if someone is a fruit-producing branch for Jesus or just a sap-sucker?
- Today's Focus: Jesus showed His love to His disciples by giving them powerful words of comfort and hope on His last night with them.
- Key Verses: *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
- If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love... My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* John 15:10, 12

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Jesus' Top Priority at the End (*John 13*)

- With less than 24 hours to live, what concerned Jesus the most?
John 13:1
- Why was He so concerned about showing His love to His apostles at this time?
John 13:31-33
- What did they really need to understand that would help get them through this pending difficult time?
John 13:34-35
- How did He begin His evening with an object lesson to teach this to them?
John 13:14-15
- How well would they show they were His disciples?
John 13:21-22
- What did He then do that would help them remember His love regularly?
1 Corinthians 11:23-25
- Did this participation in Jesus' sacrifice help secure their commitment as His disciples?
John 13:37-38 (Matthew 26:31-35)

While I'm Gone (*John 14*)

- What hope did Jesus give His disciples that they could hang onto when He was gone?
John 14:1-3, 6
- What assurance would they have of this promise?
John 14:11-12
- What would Jesus do to help them while He was gone?
John 14:16-17
- Besides the power and faith mentioned in verse 12, what else would this Counselor give to them?
John 14:25-26
- What would the Counselor give them that they would need in the short-term?
John 14:27 (Philippians 4:7)

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In the Room or on the Road? (*John 14:31*)

- Why do some believe that the lessons in John 15-17 were spoken enroute to the Garden of Gethsemane?
John 14:31b
- Why do some have trouble with the idea that Jesus spoke these words while walking?
John 17:1
- What are we told that says they likely stayed in the upper room for these words?
John 18:1
- Their path would have taken them by the temple – Prayer in John 17 could have been outside the temple
A golden vine over the temple entrance could have prompted Jesus' vine metaphor in John 15

The True Vine (*John 15:1*)

- What metaphor did Jesus use to explain His relationship with His disciples?
John 15:1
- What would the disciples understand to be the vine that Jesus replaced as the *true vine*?
Psalm 80:8-11
- How did this vine that God planted turn out?
Jeremiah 2:21
- Why did this vine produce bad fruit?
Hosea 10:1-2
- What did God do as a result?
Jeremiah 5:10; 6:9
- How would God then produce the fruit He had intended from the vine?
Psalm 80:12-17

The Lord's Vineyard (*Isaiah 5:1-7*)

- How did Isaiah use this symbolism to tell Israel's story?
Isaiah 5:1
- How much care did God take of His vineyard so that it would produce lots of good fruit?
Isaiah 5:2
Fertile hillside
Dug it up
Cleared it of stones
Choicest vines
Watchtower
Cut out a winepress
Bad fruit
- Did God feel that He had done everything that He could have done for this vineyard?
Isaiah 5:3-4
- What would God do with the vineyard as a result?
Isaiah 5:5-6
Hedge
Wall
- How did Isaiah make sure the Jews understood the meaning behind this story?
Isaiah 5:7
- Where would God get the fruit that He had desired from His vineyard?
John 15:1

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Judas Branches (*John 15:2a*)

Would every branch on this vine produce the fruit that God wanted?

John 15:2a

Judas branches

Are there really people who call themselves Christians who won't be saved?

Matthew 7:21-23

How can these Judas branches be recognized?

Matthew 7:16-20 (1 John 2:9, 19)

What will God do with these cut-off branches?

John 15:6

Fruitful Branches (*John 15:2b*)

Would God leave every productive branch alone to produce its fruit?

John 15:2

Does God really allow His fruitful branches to undergo the pain of pruning?

Hebrews 12:5-8

How could God let us go through painful times if He really loves us?

Hebrews 12:10-11

How did Peter explain this process?

1 Peter 1:6-7

Painful Pruning (*John 15:18-16:4*)

What painful pruning did Jesus warn that His apostles would face when He left?

John 16:1-4

Why should they (we) expect this hatred from the world?

John 15:19

Should we take this hatred personally?

John 15:18, 20-21

No Excuse (*John 15:22-27*)

Why might it have been better for the world before Jesus came?

John 15:22-25

Can people today be excused for rejecting Jesus since it has been so long since His truth was revealed?

John 15:26-27

The Convicting Counselor (*John 16:5-15*)

When would this Counselor begin His testimony to the world?

John 16:5-7

How would He convict the world through this testimony?

John 16:8-11

Did all of this make sense to the apostles?

John 16:12-15

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The Pruning Word (*John 15:3*)

What key tool does the Spirit of truth use to prune fruitful branches and to convict the world?
Hebrews 4:12-13
How had Jesus' disciples already experienced this pruning tool?
John 15:3

Bearing Fruit (*John 15:4-8*)

What is the only way that we can bear the fruit that God wants?
John 15:4
Does abiding in the vine give us the strength needed to work to produce the fruit God wants?
Philippians 2:13
How does Jesus point out that as branches we are unable to produce fruit on our own?
John 15:5
Why has God made it so easy for us to produce fruit just by abiding in the vine?
John 15:7-8

Abiding in the Vine (*John 15:9-17*)

What does it mean to abide (remain) in the vine?
John 15:9
How do we abide (remain) in His love?
John 15:10
What commands do we need to obey?
John 15:11-12

Are we to obey this command because Jesus our Master told us to do so?
John 15:13-15
So we need to choose Jesus as our friend and we will be able to bear fruit?
John 15:16-17

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I been a non-productive sap-sucking branch for Jesus?
(*John 15:1-2a, 4, 6; Matthew 3:7-10; 7:15-23; 13:22; 21:19, 34, 43; Luke 13:6-9; Romans 10:1-4; Revelation 2:4-5*)
2. When have I been a productive fruit-bearing branch for Jesus?
(*John 15:1-3, 5, 8; Genesis 41:52; Isaiah 37:31; Matthew 3:8; 12:33; 13:23; Romans 7:4; Colossians 1:10*)
3. When have I been separated from Christ?
(*John 15:4-6; Isaiah 59:2; Jeremiah 5:23-25; Hosea 9:10; Ephesians 2:12*)
4. How do I remain and abide in Christ?
(*John 15:4-8, 16; 14:20, 23; 17:26; Romans 8:35-39; 11:17-24; Ephesians 2:22; 3:16-17a; Philippians 1:9-11; 2 Timothy 1:13-14*)
5. In what ways do I reveal the nourishment of remaining connected to the true vine?
(*John 15:5, 9-17; Galatians 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9; Hebrews 12:11; James 3:17-18; 2 Peter 1:3-11*)