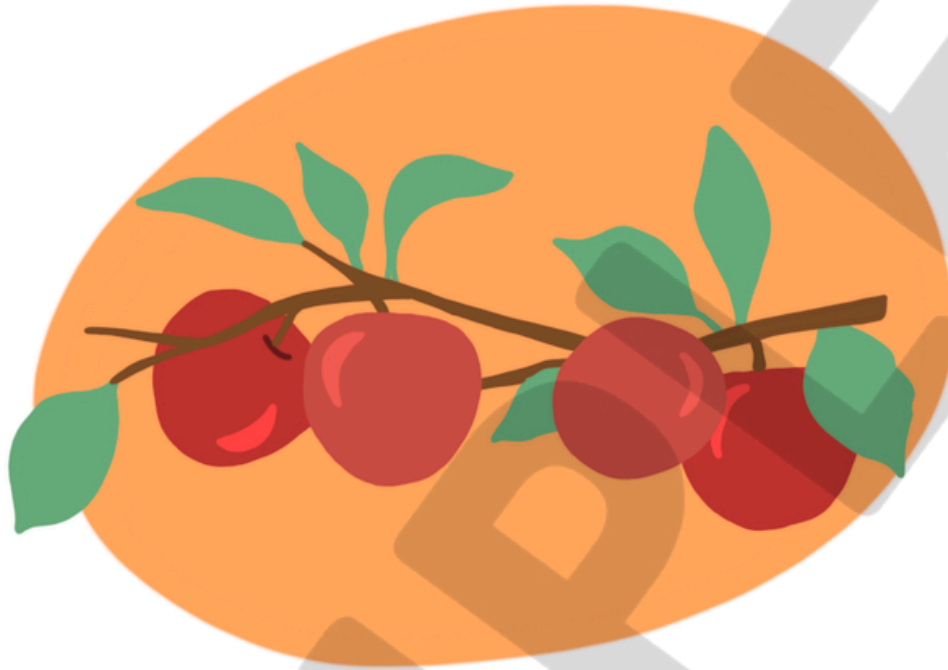


Remain in Jesus



Memory Verse

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. - John 15:7-8

Many people try to be good, honest people who do what is right. But Jesus says that the only way to live a truly good life is to stay close to Him, like a branch attached to the vine. Jesus used the example of the branch attached to the vine because many grapes were grown where he lived, and everyone would understand what He meant when He taught about the branch and the vine. Today, where we live, we might understand better the idea of a tree branch being attached to a tree limb, since we are better acquainted with the way trees grow than with how grapes grow. Whether apples or grapes, the lesson we need to learn is the same. We need to learn how to live close to Jesus in order to live a life that is full of fruit. Apart from Christ, our efforts are unfruitful.

Have you ever seen apples growing on a branch that is cut off from the rest of the tree? Of course not! There is no life-giving nourishment to a branch that has been severed. Spiritually, we can't receive nourishment if our lives are not attached to Jesus. Our life becomes barren and unfruitful, and we are living for this life only. But **how** do we remain in Jesus, so that our lives are nourished spiritually and are fruitful? Remaining in Christ means:

Believing that He is God's Son (**1 John 4:15**).

Receiving Him as Savior and Lord (**John 1:12**).

Doing what God says (**1 John 3:24**).

Continuing to believe the gospel (**1 John 2:24**).

Spending time communicating with Jesus through the Word and through prayer (**John 15:4**).

Relating in love to a community of believers, Christ's body (**John 15:12**).

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When a vine bears “many grapes” (or an apple tree bears “many apples”) God is glorified, for daily He sent the sunshine and rain to make the crops grow, and constantly He nurtured each tiny plant and prepared it to blossom. It was a moment of glory for the Lord of the harvest, when the harvest is brought into the barns, mature and ready for use; for He made it all happen!

Using the comparison of farming shows how God is glorified when people come into a right relationship with Him and begin to “bear much fruit” in their lives. How about you? Are **you** receiving the nourishment and life Jesus the vine has offered? If not, you are missing a special gift He has for you.

Remain in Jesus

Lesson Questions

Using today's lesson, answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus say is the only way to live a truly good life? _____

2. We need to learn how to _____ in
order to live a life that is "_____."
3. Is there any way to live a fruitful life apart from Jesus? yes _____ no _____
4. In today's lesson, what happens to a branch that is cut off from the vine? _____

5. Write down the six points that explain what it means to remain in Jesus. Include the references.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
6. Why is God glorified when a vine (or branch) bears much fruit? _____

7. God is glorified when people come into a _____ with
_____ and begin to "_____ " in their lives.
8. Optional and for discussion. What do you think the fruit is that Christians bear? _____

Personal Question: What is one thing you can do to remain close to Jesus?
