

As Disciples of Jesus

Week 7 | John 15:1–17 | October 25, 2026

Use this study on your own or with a group. Individuals: write and reflect on the questions. Groups: discuss them together, allowing time for personal reflection.

Begin with prayer. As you work through the four questions below, ask: What in the passage supports your answers?

Read and notice

Read John 15:1–17 twice. Circle every form of “remain,” “love,” and “fruit.” Underline what Jesus and the Father do. Then mark what Jesus tells the disciples to do. What do you notice about the order?

1. Who is God?

Jesus calls himself the true vine and calls his Father the vinegrower. What does each name show you about who God is? What do the Father’s tending and Jesus’ life-giving presence tell you about their purpose for the branches?

2. What has God done?

List what Jesus and the Father have already done and continue to do as Jesus calls the disciples to respond. Include what Jesus says about his word, his love, his choosing, his friendship, and his joy. What difference does that order make?

Follow the branches through verses 1–8. What does the Father do with them? What does Jesus promise to those who remain in him? What can a branch never produce by itself?

3. What does the passage say about who we are?

According to the vine and branches, what is a disciple’s relationship to Jesus? What does a branch receive from the vine, and what happens when it tries to live apart from the vine?

Read verses 9–17 again. Jesus speaks to the disciples together. How do “love one another,” “friends,” “chosen,” and “appointed” describe their shared life?

Put the whole passage together. What do the words remain, love, obey, joy, and fruit show about the life Jesus creates among his disciples?

4. So what?

Trace Jesus’ commands in verses 4–17. Which one do you most need to hear as an invitation this week? Which one exposes a place where you have been trying to produce fruit without receiving life from Jesus?

Picture a child learning to pray before reacting, a student choosing patient love when a friend is difficult, a young adult making room for Jesus in a crowded week, an adult letting Christ reshape an old habit, or an older adult continuing to bear fruit through prayer, friendship, and witness.

Which example sounds closest to your life right now? What would remaining in Jesus look like there—not as one more task, but as receiving the life only he can give?

Picture this in your life: Your calendar is full, but prayer and attention to Jesus have become thin. You are helpful and productive, but also tired and less patient with people.

What would it look like to receive from Jesus before trying to produce more for him?

Picture this at home: Your home—or a regular table or conversation—has become hurried and impatient. Someone needs to listen, apologize, forgive, or stay present.

How could Jesus' love take one concrete form there? If you live alone, who belongs to the circle of relationships in which you receive and practice this love?

Picture this in our church and community: People who differ in age, experience, or conviction work together. A tense conversation makes it easier to defend a position than to love the people present.

What might change if everyone remembered that we receive life from the same Lord? What would faithful love require next?

After studying the passage today, what might be your next faithful step in response?

This week: Read John 15:1–17 each morning. Choose one word—remain, word, love, joy, friend, chosen, or fruit—and let it shape one ordinary relationship or responsibility.

For further study, read John 13:1–17, 34–35; John 14:15–27; John 15:18–16:15; and John 20:19–23.

Vocabulary for our Life Together

Identity

Identity is received, not achieved. In Christ, we are called and beloved, saved by grace, united with Christ, and being made like the Son.

The Gospel

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ: through his life, death, resurrection, and reign, God saves us by grace through faith, gathers us as his people, and will make all things new (See the Gospel Catechism for the fuller account).

Disciples

Disciples are: United with Jesus; Being formed by the Spirit to be like Jesus; Joining Jesus in his kingdom work.

Work through the words

How does John 15 expand or help us understand these terms? What changes when Jesus—not our activity—is the center of all three?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the true vine and we are the branches. Thank you for loving us, choosing us, and sharing your life with us. Keep us close to you. Form your love in us, teach us to love one another, and bear fruit through us that lasts. Amen.