

A video introduction is available. Watch it at [https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1\\_7v1h2sx3](https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_7v1h2sx3)

**1. Motivate**

When has a task looked bigger than your ability to get it done?

**2. Transition**

We know that believers are to join God's work in both the church and the world.

- We may well feel that the task to be beyond our abilities.
- We must realize we are not alone. God will be working through us.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God's Expectation

Listen for an analogy.

John 15:1-3 (NIV) "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Consider the three personalities spoken of in the passage, God the Father, Jesus, and believers. What is the role of each as specified by the passage?

Role of the Father	Jesus' Role	Believers' Role

In gardening, what is the purpose of pruning?

What are some common types of pruning that Christians need?

In what ways might God be wanting to remove "dead" or useless pieces in our lives?

What are some things that God expects believers to produce? What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?

3.2 Our Relationship with Jesus

Listen for an essential connection.

John 15:4-5 (NIV) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "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.

What is essential if one is to be spiritually effective, or fruitful?

How does Jesus describe the relationship between Himself and believers?

What did He say that makes it clear that believers are completely dependent on Him?

What does it mean to “remain in” or “abide” in Christ? What does this look like in a practical sense in one’s life?

What are some ways the world’s advice differs from that of Jesus in 15:4?

World’s advice	Jesus’ advice

Jesus says apart from Him we can do nothing. How would you answer someone who brags to you of his or her list of accomplishments?

When is it difficult to develop and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?

- when you are busy, distracted by normally events of daily living

What are practical things we do to stay connected to Jesus? How do spiritual disciplines help us remain/abide in Jesus?

### 3.3 God Is Glorified

Listen for the fate of fruitless branches.

John 15:6-8 (NIV) If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

What did Jesus say would happen to the branches that did not remain in Him?

Whom or what do you think the withered branches represent?

What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine?

What is the ultimate purpose for bearing fruit?

How does the fruit we produce bring glory to God?

When have you seen God glorified through the spiritual fruit of believers?

### Application

**Remain in Christ.**

- Surrender your plans and choose to remain in Christ, living in Him and in His power.
- Pray for open eyes to see the ministry opportunities He places before you.

**Mentor.**

- If you are already involved in a ministry, offer to mentor someone who is not.
- Disciple them in the discipline of abiding in Christ.
- Help them discover how they can minister too.

**Lead.**

- If God is calling you to ministry leadership, accept His call.
- Talk with your pastor about this calling and your next steps.



- |           |          |        |
|-----------|----------|--------|
| APART     | ASK      | AWAY   |
| BRANCH    | BURNED   | CLEAN  |
| DISCIPLES | FIRE     | FRUIT  |
| FRUITFUL  | GARDENER | GLORY  |
| PRUNE     | REMAIN   | SPOKEN |
| THROWN    | TRUE     | VINE   |
| WITHERS   |          |        |

Humph! Spiros the Spy is treading on my territory. He says there's a 54-letter hidden message between the above words you must find in the grid. As usual, they go up, down, left, right, and diagonal. The message will read left to right from the top down. Verify your results with the Qanei Swilesan missions representative on the Mission Board. Humph! Spiros is going to owe me a book report!

Should I tell them about help at <https://tinyurl.com/2ulh89t2>? They might want to try a different Family Activity too ...

