

KNOWING REAL POWER

The Vine and the Branches

John 15:1—16:4

“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. John 15:4

1. Read John 15:1–6 with Isaiah 5:1–7 and fill in the following chart.

	Isaiah 5:1–7	John 15:1–2
Who is the gardener?		
What does he do?		
Who is the vine?		
Is the vine fruitful?		

2. In plant care, what is the purpose of pruning? What kind of pruning does God do? Have you felt God’s pruning hand on your life? What is the result of his pruning?

3. Read John 15:5–17. What must happen before there is fruit in your life? What kind of fruit do we produce as we remain in Jesus? (vs. 12; Galatians 5:22) Where do you need that fruit today? in what situation? with what person?

4. How will you remain in (stay close to) Jesus this week? (vs. 7; Colossians 3:16)

5. How is your prayer life changed as you remain in Jesus? (vs. 7)

6. In John 15:9–10, what does Jesus say about his love for you? What else do we know about his love? (See also John 17:26; Romans 5:5–8.)

7. How can you have the real, lasting joy that verse 11 talks about? Where or what do you usually think joy will come from? Describe a time when you experienced joy in knowing Jesus.

8. What command does Jesus repeat again and again during this last evening with his disciples? (13:34; 15:12, 17) How does remaining in Jesus help you to do this?

9. Read John 15:18—16:4. Try to explain what Jesus means by the “world.” Give a reason or two for the world’s hatred of Christ and his people. Is the world’s dislike of Christians always because they are like Christ? If not, what other reasons are there?

10. Give some reasons why we, as Christians, should expect persecution as we remain in Christ.

11. Reread this week’s passage one more time and write out one verse as a prayer.