

# Midweek Study

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## Purpose of a Disciple

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*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” - John 15:1-7*

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### The Vineyard – vs. 1

1. Vinedresser – God the Father
2. Vine – Jesus, God the Son
3. Branches – Believers, disciples

### The Disciple’s Purpose – vs. 2

To bear FRUIT

What is Fruit?

- Godly character

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” - Galatians 5:22-23*

**God’s work in you is focused on one thing: fruit**

## The Disciple's Cultivation – vs. 2

Pruning = cutting away

Pruning is...

1. Painful
2. Precise
3. Perplexing
4. Universal
5. Unending
6. Seasonal

### **Purpose of Pruning – "...to bear more fruit" – John 15:2**

*"Don't think God is up in heaven snapping a big whip and saying, 'Bear fruit, or I'll get you!'*

*He is carefully helping us to bear fruit.*

*Aren't you glad that God is involved in your life for that purpose?" – Dr. John MacArthur*

## The Disciple's Relationship – vs. 4

Command to Abide

Necessity to Abide

Misconceptions of abiding

- Abiding is based on feelings
- We can abide in Jesus without obeying him.

Proof of Abiding

- Helps us to sense the leading of the Lord
- Gives us the "rest" we need to bear a much greater yield
- Carries with it a promise of answered prayer
  - **"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."** – John 15:7