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# ENCOUNTER JESUS

Week 25 | THE POWER OF ABIDING | John 15:1-11

**THERE IS NO JOY IN THIS WORLD LIKE UNION WITH CHRIST  
THE MORE WE CAN FEEL IT, THE HAPPIER WE ARE.  
C.H. SPURGEON**

Metaphors are powerful tools for communication. They provide a picture to help us see complex things that we don't quite understand in terms of simple things that we do understand. The marketing world has effectively harnessed this power, using meaningful motifs such as the journey, relationships, or even war to inspire and engage people to buy their products. But Jesus was the Master of the metaphor, and He used them brilliantly and precisely. For example, when Jesus wanted people to understand that there was only one way to God, He said, "I am the Door." When He wanted His disciples to understand His care for His people, He said, "I am the Good Shepherd." Or when He desired people to know that they could find truth in a world of darkness, He said, "I am the Light of the World." And in the Scriptures we are considering for this study, when Jesus described what it was like to have a relationship with Him and the Father, He said, "I am the True Vine, and you are the branches." Notice that He didn't say, "I am the business owner, and you are the customer," or, "I am the store, and you are the shopper," or, "I am the General, and you are the soldier." A relationship with Christ means a living union and communion that leads to fruitfulness in our lives. Just as the branch abides in the vine and bears fruit, so will we as we abide in Christ. What a beautiful metaphor this is, indeed.

**Leaders:** Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



## **PRAY** (10 min)

As a Life Group, reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Spend time thanking God that you are "in Christ." United to Him in faith.



## **REFLECT** (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? Use the notes from Sunday's message and spend time searching for the phrase "in Christ" in the New Testament. Write down what you discover and discuss. According to the teaching, how does a person become "in Christ"?**

**I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST WHO LIVES IN ME. AND THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH, I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD.**

**GALATIANS 2:20**

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2. A vine and a branch are interconnected so that the nutrients flow through the vine into the branch to bear fruit. The vine is the source of life, and the branch lives dependently upon the vine. **Explain how this illustrates a Christian's relationship with Christ. Discuss what it means to "abide" in concrete terms.**

**THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME, AND I IN YOU, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE IN US, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME.**

**JOHN 17:21**

3. **Describe why a vinedresser prunes the vine. How is that illustrative of God pruning our lives from unhealthy or sinful behaviors? Describe in practical terms what this looks like. What tools does God use to prune? Is there anything in your life that is spiritually unhealthy that needs to be pruned away so that you can become more fruitful? What will you do about that?**

**FRUITFULNESS PROVES YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE SON. PRUNING PROVES YOU ARE SUBMITTED TO THE FATHER.**

4. **Are you growing in your fruitfulness for God? Explain your answer.**



## WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

### **GALATIANS 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God.

### **THIS WEEK'S MISSIONAL LIVING TIP:**

Remember that abiding in Christ means a minute-by-minute dependence on Him for everything. Approach your week with daily prayer, acknowledging your dependence upon Jesus. Pray that the fruit that comes as you abide in Him catches the attention of the non-Christian.



## REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, pray that every Christian that calls Awaken Las Vegas their church home will become more fruitful for God's glory.