



WEEK 7

## I Am the True Vine

John 15:1-8, cf Isaiah 5:1-7

### OPEN

This is our seventh and final week of our series called “I Am” where we have been exploring the 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus throughout the gospel of John. John’s gospel is focused on introducing the *person* and *purpose* of Jesus which he does through these “I Am” statements. Each statement not only reveals the true identity of Jesus, but also serves as an invitation to respond to the type of relationship that Jesus the “I Am” offers each of us. In John 15 we will learn how Jesus is the **true vine**. Life connected to Jesus (the vine) is not only essential to *thrive* but essential if we are going to bear fruit; the ultimate purpose for God work in us.

### READ

- **Read and compare Isaiah 5:1-7 with John 15:1-8.**
  - Who is the vine in each passage?
  - What other differences are there in these passages?
- **Read John 15:7 and John 15:16.**
  - What are the conditions described for receiving what we ask for?
- The Greek word used for “branches” in John 15 means tender and flexible.
  - Describe a time when someone was tender and flexible with you.
  - How did that experience draw you to Jesus?

### REFLECT

- Grapes need rocky soil to produce the best fruit. What are some of the rocks in your life that have brought difficulty and yet you grew during those times?
- **Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:12-13.** God’s purpose in trials is not to create an escape for us, but use them to shape us and grow in us perseverance and character of faith. How would your prayer life change if you began viewing trials as a shaping opportunity for your faith?
- **Read John 15:1-2 again.** Although we may not like the idea of “pruning” the gardener knows what needs to be pruned away to produce more growth. Where have you sensed the Gardener’s pruning in your life? What was the outcome of that pruning?
- We have reviewed 7 “I am” statements Jesus made about himself in John. Which “I Am” resonates with you most right now and why?
  - I am the **bread of life**, the **light of the world**, the **good Shepherd**, the **gate** for my sheep, the **way** the truth and the life, the **resurrection and the life**, the **true vine**.

### APPLY/PRAY

- Examine your life with your family.
  - What are you doing right now that is bearing good fruit in your family?
  - Look at other parts of your life and ask the same question.
  - What can you do more of and what can you do less of?
- Share with each other a successful way you have ‘remained’ in Jesus that has led to deeper intimacy with him.
- Jesus’ command to us in John 15 is to love each other like he has loved us. Each of us have difficult people in our lives to love. Share with each other one thing you will do this month to show love to that individual.
- Pray for Wellspring’s elders, staff, and leaders for wisdom and direction.

