SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY FEB 25

John **15** · week 15 of 21

The True Vine · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 15 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Feb 22
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Feb 23
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Feb 24
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 15 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Feb 25

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 15:5 · NASB**
>
> *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

On the way out of the upper room Jesus pictures His life in His people as a vine and its branches. Then He tells them the world will hate them. The disciples say nothing in this chapter; it is all Jesus speaking.

John 15 *The True Vine*

KEY VERSE 15:5

Theme of the chapter. Jesus is the true Vine, and His disciples live and bear fruit only by abiding in Him, His words and His love. The Father prunes fruitful branches so they bear more. Jesus chose them as friends, commands them to love one another as He loved them, and warns that the world will hate them as it hated Him, while the Spirit and the disciples testify about Him.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

abide / abides	**10**	vv. 4 (×3), 5, 6, 7 (×2), 9, 10 (×2)
fruit	**8**	vv. 2 (×3), 4, 5, 8, 16 (×2)
love / loved / loves	**10**	vv. 9 (×3), 10 (×2), 12 (×2), 13, 17, 19
hate / hated / hates	**8**	vv. 18 (×3), 19, 23 (×2), 24, 25
world	**6**	vv. 18, 19 (×5)
chose	**2**	vv. 16, 19

JOHN 15:1–8 The Vine

1 OBSERVE *Who is the vine, who is the vinedresser, and what does the vinedresser do with fruitless and fruitful branches (15:1–2)?*

> Jesus is the true vine; the Father is the vinedresser. Every branch that does not bear fruit, He takes away; every branch that bears fruit, He prunes so that it may bear more fruit (15:2).

2 INTERPRET *Read Psalm 80:8 and Isaiah 5:1–7. Why does Jesus call Himself the "true" vine?*

> In the Old Testament Israel is God's vine, and every passage laments missing fruit. Jesus is the genuine Vine that bears the fruit God was looking for. Henry: "Jesus Christ is the vine, the true vine."

3 OBSERVE *What does Jesus say a branch can do apart from Him (15:5)?*

> "Apart from Me you can do nothing" (15:5).

4 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Who are the branches thrown away and burned (15:6)? Guzik: "The branches that are taken away were never properly abiding in the vine." Henry: "Unfruitful professors are unfaithful professors." Arminian readers see real believers who can fall away. What does everyone agree on?*

> The warning is real, and the evidence of life is fruit. Judas had walked out of the same room hours earlier.

5 INTERPRET *What does it mean to abide? Look at 15:7 and 15:10.*

> Verse 7 ties it to His words abiding in us; verse 10 to keeping His commandments. Guzik: "This is not some mystical experience. It is simple obedience."

6 APPLY *Spurgeon: "What a mercy it is to the believer that it is pruning with him and not cutting off!" Where is the Father pruning you right now?*

> Personal. The study's promise: pruning, not cutting off.

JOHN 15:9–11 Abide in My Love

7 OBSERVE *How does Jesus love His disciples, how do they abide in His love, and why is He telling them this (15:9–11)?*

> "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love" (15:9). By keeping His commandments, as He kept the Father's (15:10). "So that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (15:11).

8 INTERPRET *Sproul: "First, the joy that Jesus wants to see in us is His joy." How is that joy different from happiness?*

> Sproul: "He wants us to have a permanent joy, not a roller-coaster ride of moods." Guzik: it "isn't the same as what is commonly understood as happiness or excitement."

JOHN 15:12–17 Friends

9 OBSERVE *What is the greatest love (15:13)? What does Jesus now call His disciples, and why (15:15)?*

> "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (15:13). He calls them friends, not slaves, "for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you" (15:15).

10 INTERPRET *"You did not choose Me but I chose you" (15:16). What did He choose and appoint them for?*

> To go and bear fruit, and that their fruit would remain. Guzik: "They were all rooted in the fact that Jesus chose them, not that they chose Him." Readers differ on how far this speaks to individual election; all agree the initiative is His.

11 APPLY *Spurgeon: "Familiarity with Jesus ceases when we become familiar with known sin." What known sin is getting in the way of your friendship with Jesus?*

> Personal.

JOHN 15:18–25 The World's Hatred

12 OBSERVE *Why will the world hate the disciples (15:18–19)?*

> It hated Jesus first. They are not of the world, because He chose them out of the world, "because of this the world hates you" (15:19).

13 INTERPRET *Jesus says if He had not come and spoken, "they would not have sin" (15:22). Does that mean those who never heard are sinless?*

> No. Rejecting Jesus after His words and works removes every excuse (*prophasis*, "cloak"). They have "no excuse for their sin" (15:22).

14 APPLY *Spurgeon: "Indifference with regard to Christ is a clear impossibility." Where have you felt the world's hatred, or avoided it by blending in?*

> Personal. The study's courage: the world will not applaud.

JOHN 15:26–27 The Witness

15 OBSERVE *Who will testify about Jesus, and who else will testify (15:26–27)?*

> The Helper, "the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also" (15:26–27).

WORD STUDY

16 WORD *menō (G3306), to remain, stay, dwell. "Abide" fills 15:4–10, and "remain" in 15:16 is the same word. What does staying connected to Jesus look like in your ordinary week?*

> His words abiding in us (15:7) and keeping His commandments (15:10): staying where He is, daily.

17 WORD *kathairō (G2508), to cleanse, to prune. "He prunes" (15:2) and "you are already clean" (15:3) share a root. How does God use His word to prune you?*

> The word that cleansed them (15:3) keeps cutting away what hinders fruit.

ACTS 17:11

The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

Season 5, Episode 6, "Reunions" (opening scene, John 15)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Does John record the bread and the cup at the Last Supper? Where are they recorded? Where does the show put John 15?

> No. They are in Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and 1 Corinthians 11. The show places the vine teaching in the middle of the bread and cup.

C2 OBSERVE

Read 15:4–8. What does abiding in Christ produce? What happens apart from Him?

> Much fruit, and the Father is glorified. Apart from Him we can do nothing (15:5).

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 15 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.