



## Week 17: Lean in and Hold On

**Series:** John

**Scripture:** John 15:1-12

vv1-3: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the vine.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the vine.
  - duties of the gardner
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - Prov 15:3
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - He \_\_\_\_\_ the branch
      - *aerei* = lifts up, takes away
    - He \_\_\_\_\_ the branch
      - *kathairei* = cleanse, prune

vv2-8 - we find that the vine has

- a \_\_\_\_\_ purpose: to \_\_\_\_\_
- a \_\_\_\_\_ purpose
  - that the vinedresser receive the \_\_\_\_\_
- a \_\_\_\_\_ purpose

3 qualifications for bearing fruit:

- the branch must be \_\_\_\_\_ to the vine
- the branch must \_\_\_\_\_ in the vine
- the branch must be \_\_\_\_\_ to the vine

Those that don't abide experience a loss of:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

vv7-11 we find that abiding in the vine contains a \_\_\_\_\_.

- an \_\_\_\_\_ life
- \_\_\_\_\_ love
- uncommon \_\_\_\_\_

**Start talking.**

- Spiritually, what plant best describes you now: Towering oak? Weeping willow? Tumble-weed? Crab-apple tree? Explain.

**Start thinking.** Read John 15:1-12

- If vine branches were human, what pain would be associated with pruning? What tools? How does the disciples' experience illustrate this process (see 13:18-21,36-38; 14:5-8)?
- Jesus repeats remain in me, love and bearing fruit. How are these words related? What is the "fruit that will last" (v.16)?
- How do verses 9 and 12 tie together? How is love the essential dynamic of the Christian life? How do verses 12-13 take Jesus' command to love even further than 13:34-35? How does our relationship with Jesus change once we start practicing this example of love?
- What is the link between obedience and prayer (vv.7,16; see 14:13-14)?

**Start sharing.**

- As a branch on Christ's vine, how would you describe the fruit in your life: Grade A-1? Juicy? Green? Wormy? Why?
- Do you feel more like Jesus' servant or his friend? What helps develop the relationship?

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, thank You for Christ Jesus the true and living Vine. Thank You that You have called me to be a branch on that living Vine. Thank You that by grace through faith in Him, I have heard the gospel of grace and have been saved by the cleansing power of Your Word. I pray that I may grow in grace, day by day, and live and work to Your praise and glory. I pray that I would continue to be cleansed with every passing day, as I abide in You and You in me. To Your praise and glory, AMEN.*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week

- Pay attention to moments where you can listen for the voice of God to lead you to put faith in him and walk in that faith.