

Sermon Title: Testimony

Sermon Series: My Story

Scripture: John 15:1-11

Speaker: Elder Brad Bush



John 15:1-6 ESV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 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. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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.

To bear fruit, we need to be connected to Jesus and we need to be pruned by God.

Prune away what is damaged

Prune away what is unnecessary

John 15:7-11 ESV

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Discussion Questions:

Getting to Know You

1. Are you a green thumb person or a “black thumb” person?

Into the Bible

2. What are some stories in the Bible that reference gardening?

3. What is one thing about you or your life that has changed because of Jesus?

4. What are some ways our relationship with Jesus is similar to the relationship of a branch to its vine?

5. Read John 15:1 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

How is Jesus the “True Vine”? Share some other verses in the bible or character traits of Jesus that reveal that He is the Truth.

Do you fully trust Jesus with your life? Why or why not?

6. Read John 15 :1-2 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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.

How does God pruning us help us to bear more spiritual fruit?

Share an example of something God pruned from your life that has helped you be more fruitful.

7. Read John 15:4-6 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. 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. 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.

What does it mean to “abide in Jesus” ? (hint : read verses 7-11)

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What are the benefits of abiding in Jesus?

What are the consequences of not abiding in Jesus?

8. John 15:7 says “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

What does this mean?

Is God going to grant our wishes?

9. Today's passage refers to 'bearing fruit' that glorifies the Father. What is the purpose of fruit?

What are some examples of the fruit that glorifies God?

Application

10. Hurt and broken people need to feel safe to receive healing. As you share Jesus with those who don't know Him, what are some ways you can help them feel safe?

11. With whom can you share your story of what Christ has done for you this week?

Pray and Share

Take time to pray for one another and practice sharing your "my story".