

**Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream**  
**April 26, 2020**

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and small groups to use it. When we hear God's Word read and explained, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or small group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon using the Discussion Guide (see below). **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or small group.

**Discussion Guide: The Real Jesus - Week 5**

**Discussion Starter 1:** Jesus said, "I am the vine and my Father is the gardener." Pastor Sam showed us how Jesus was using an Old Testament idea that was also a common place image in Israel. Talk with your family or small group about how this imagery plays into your own life's story. Do you have a green thumb? Have you every tried to prune back a bush or tree? What happened?

**Discussion Starter 2:** Read Psalm 80:8-19. This Psalm points forward to Jesus as the Son who would be the true vine of God. Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. Because of this we can be in a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus. Discuss with your family or small group how it is helpful to see how Jesus' "I am the vine" statement fits within the whole story of the Bible. List some things that Jesus accomplished which Israel could not do. Hint: Think about the Law, the Covenant Promises, the Old Testament Sacrifices, etc.

**Self-Evaluation:** It is clear from Sam's message that being connected to the True Vine is critical to fruit bearing. When we bear fruit, we give evidence or proof that we are connected to Jesus. Ask yourself and everyone who is with you to consider this question: "Have you surrendered your life to Jesus so that you are trusting Him only and truly connected to Jesus, the True Vine?" Maybe you have experienced times of fruitfulness as a believer and know that you are indeed connected to Jesus, but now your life is not as fruitful. Perhaps you are experiencing the pruning of God, the master gardener. How can you stay in fellowship with Jesus and remain in Him so as to bear more fruit?

**Going Deeper:** Read John 15:1-8. Pastor Sam shared with us the fruit of a transformed life. He mentioned that through the power of God's Word we should bear fruit of righteous living, sharing the gospel, and bringing others to Jesus. In verse 5 Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing." Have you ever tried to do anything for Jesus in your own strength and it failed? Far too often we struggle to do the will of God and the work of God because we are trying to do it without God. Talk with your family or small group about how you can do things in the strength of Jesus. What are some of those things we need to be doing?

**Doing the Word:** Take the time this week to memorize John 15:5. Try to say it every day. Then, make a plan this week to stay in close fellowship with Jesus by being in the Bible and prayer so you can bear fruit in your life for Jesus. Each day ask yourself: Is my life marked by living right for the glory of God? Who am I sharing the gospel with today? How can I bring someone to Jesus and lead them to trust Him as Lord and Savior?