



John 15 Teaching Manuscript

Abiding in Christ Pruned for Fruit Empowered to Witness

Harvest Fields Community Church Mid Week Bible Study

Revealing God Reaching People Restoring Lives

Manuscript purpose

This manuscript follows the 29 slide John 15 presentation in order. Each section supplies Scripture, expanded teaching language, and a transition to the next slide. The central message is that lasting fruit grows from persevering dependence on Jesus Christ, the true vine.

Scripture quotations from John 15 and John 20 use the NET Bible wording reflected in the presentation materials. Commentary connections to Psalm 80, the Old Testament vine imagery, and the meaning of fruit follow the supplied notes and the interpretations discussed by D. A. Carson and F. F. Bruce.

Slide 1 Vineyard near Gethsemane

Scripture focus

John 14:31 and John 18:1

Scripture reading

John 14:31 records Jesus saying, "Get up, let us go from here." John 18:1 later places Jesus and the disciples across the Kidron Valley in a garden.

Teaching manuscript

Begin with the image of a vineyard near Gethsemane. It gives the congregation a visual connection to the agricultural world of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. Vines, olive trees, stone terraces, and cultivated fields formed part of the landscape known to Jesus and His disciples.

Present the image as an illustration. John does not say that Jesus spoke John 15 while standing inside a vineyard or inside Gethsemane. John 14:31 may indicate movement away from the upper room, and the Gospel later places Jesus in a garden. The exact location of the vine teaching remains unstated.

The scene still helps us feel the weight of the moment. Jesus speaks about life, fruit, love, hatred, and witness while He moves toward arrest and crucifixion. His words do not come from a comfortable distance. He prepares His disciples for life after His departure.

Transition

With the final night before the cross in view, introduce the main subject of the study: life that comes from remaining in Jesus Christ.

Slide 2 Abiding in Christ

Scripture focus

John 15

Scripture reading

Main theme: Pruned for Fruit and Empowered to Witness

Teaching manuscript

Welcome everyone to the Harvest Fields Community Church Mid Week Bible Study. John 15 teaches that the Christian life depends completely on Jesus. He is the true vine. The Father is the vinedresser. Believers are branches who receive life from Christ and bear fruit through continuing dependence on Him.

The chapter moves from union with Christ to love within the church and then to witness before the world. Jesus also prepares His disciples for opposition and promises the help of the Spirit of truth.

Keep the church mission in view throughout the lesson: Revealing God, Reaching People and Restoring Lives. John 15 shows that each part of that mission grows from life in Christ.

Transition

State the teaching aim so the congregation knows what to listen for throughout the chapter.

Slide 3 Opening and teaching aim

Scripture focus

John 15:1-27

Scripture reading

John 15 calls believers to continuing dependence on Jesus Christ.

Teaching manuscript

The first aim is to understand the true vine and our complete dependence on Christ. A branch cannot produce grapes by effort after it separates from the vine. In the same way, Christian character and ministry cannot grow apart from Christ.

The second aim is to trust the Father during purposeful pruning. The Father actively tends fruitful branches so they may bear more fruit. His care may include correction, discipline, redirected priorities, or the removal of habits that hinder spiritual growth.

The third aim is to remain in Jesus' love through obedience and sacrificial love. The fourth aim is to testify about Christ through the Holy Spirit's power. As the lesson unfolds, invite hearers to identify a truth to believe and a response to make.

Transition

John tells us why he wrote his Gospel, and that purpose guides how we interpret John 15.

Slide 4 The purpose of the Gospel of John

Scripture focus

John 20:30-31

Scripture reading

30 Now Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

31 But these are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Teaching manuscript

John selected the signs and teachings in his Gospel so readers would believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. His goal reaches beyond information. He calls people to receive life in Jesus' name.

John 15 explains the continuing shape of that life. The believer remains in Christ, receives His words, prays in His name, obeys His commands, loves His people, bears lasting fruit, and joins the Spirit's witness to the world.

This purpose also guards us from treating the vine as a lesson in self-improvement. Spiritual life begins and continues through faith in the Son of God.

Transition

Place the teaching within the emotional setting of the night before the crucifixion.

Slide 5 The night before the cross

Scripture focus

John 13-17

Scripture reading

John 15 belongs to the Farewell Discourse, Jesus' final extended teaching to His disciples before His arrest.

Teaching manuscript

Judas has departed, and Jesus speaks to the remaining disciples. He knows that betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion are near. The disciples will soon face fear, confusion, separation, and public opposition.

Within this setting Jesus speaks about joy, love, friendship, prayer, hatred, and witness. His teaching gives the disciples the spiritual foundation they will need when they can no longer see Him physically.

John 14:31 may suggest that Jesus and the disciples began moving after the upper room teaching. The wording allows that possibility, but it does not identify the location where Jesus spoke the vine discourse.

Transition

The Gethsemane setting belongs later that night and gives helpful context without establishing the exact location of John 15.

Slide 6 Gethsemane and the vine teaching

Scripture focus

John 14:31 and John 18:1

Scripture reading

Jesus later entered a garden across the Kidron Valley. The Synoptic Gospels identify the place as Gethsemane.

Teaching manuscript

Gethsemane stood on or near the Mount of Olives. Its name is commonly associated with an olive press. Vines and olive trees belonged to the agricultural world surrounding Jerusalem, so the disciples would have understood Jesus' imagery immediately.

The approach to Gethsemane gives the teaching emotional weight. Jesus, the true vine, is about to surrender His life. The disciples, His branches, will soon experience fear and scattering. Their future faithfulness will require life that only He can supply.

Avoid claiming that Jesus pointed to a specific vine or delivered the discourse inside the garden. The Gospel does not provide those details. Use the imagery to illuminate the setting while preserving the distinction between Scripture and historical possibility.

Transition

Show the congregation the four movements that organize the chapter.

Slide 7 The movement of John 15

Scripture focus

John 15:1-27

Scripture reading

Verses 1-8 present the true vine and fruitful branches.

Verses 9-17 explain remaining in Jesus' love through obedience, friendship, and mission.

Verses 18-25 prepare disciples for the world's hatred and rejection.

Verses 26-27 promise that the Spirit and the disciples will testify about Jesus.

Teaching manuscript

The chapter begins with life in Christ. That life produces love among believers. The same disciples then carry Christ's witness into a world that may oppose them. The Holy Spirit supplies the help and testimony they need.

This movement matters. Jesus does not separate spirituality from relationships or mission. Dependence on Christ changes prayer and obedience, shapes love within the church, and gives courage for witness before the world.

Transition

Read John 15:1-8 and listen for the repeated words fruit and remain.

Slide 8 The true vine and fruitful branches

Scripture focus

John 15:1-8

Scripture reading

- 1 “I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.*
- 2 He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit in me. He prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit.*
- 3 You are clean already because of the word that I have spoken to you.*
- 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.*
- 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me—and I in him—bears much fruit because apart from me you can accomplish nothing.*
- 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out like a branch and dries up; and such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire and are burned up.*
- 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you.*
- 8 My Father is honored by this, that you bear much fruit and show that you are my disciples.*

Teaching manuscript

Jesus identifies the central relationships in the image. He is the true vine, the Father is the gardener, and the disciples are branches. The Father removes unfruitful branches and prunes fruitful branches. Jesus' words have already cleansed the disciples, and they must continue to remain in Him.

The command to remain appears beside a promise: Jesus remains in His people. A branch cannot bear fruit from itself. In the same way, disciples cannot produce the life and ministry God desires through independent effort. Jesus states the conclusion plainly: apart from Him they can accomplish nothing of spiritual value.

Verses 7 and 8 connect abiding with Jesus' words, prayer, fruit, discipleship, and the Father's glory. Prayer becomes effective as Christ's words shape what the disciple desires and requests. Fruit gives visible evidence that the disciple lives in dependence on Christ.

Transition

Explain why Jesus calls Himself the true vine and why that title centers the entire Christian life in Him.

Slide 9 Jesus is the true vine

Scripture focus

John 15:1 and John 14:6

Scripture reading

"I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener."

Teaching manuscript

This final major I am image in John places spiritual life in Jesus Himself. He does more than teach a method for bearing fruit. He supplies the life from which fruit grows.

The word true carries the sense of genuine and ultimate. Old Testament Israel was pictured as God's vine, yet the nation often failed to produce the fruit God desired. Jesus fulfills the calling Israel did not fulfill. He is the faithful Son and the true source of God's covenant life.

The branch has no independent life. Union with Christ therefore provides the foundation for prayer, obedience, joy, love, perseverance, and witness.

Transition

Trace the vine imagery through Psalm 80 and show how its prayer reaches toward the faithful Son.

Slide 10 Psalm 80 points from Israel to the Son

Scripture focus

Psalm 80:8-19 and John 15:1

Scripture reading

Psalm 80:8-11 pictures God bringing a vine out of Egypt, planting it, and allowing it to fill the land.

Psalm 80:14-15 asks God to return, inspect the vine, and protect what His right hand planted.

Psalm 80:17 focuses the prayer on the man at God's right hand, the son of man whom God strengthened for Himself.

Teaching manuscript

Psalm 80 begins with Israel as the vine God brought out of Egypt. God cleared the ground, planted the vine, and caused it to spread. The psalm then describes devastation and asks God to return and restore His people.

The prayer turns from the vine to the man at God's right hand, described as the son of man whom God strengthened. Carson and Bruce connect Jesus' true vine declaration with this wider Old Testament vine tradition. Read canonically and messianically, the imagery finds its fulfillment in Jesus. He represents faithful Israel, stands as the true Son, and supplies the fruit God desires.

Isaiah 5:1-7, Jeremiah 2:21, Hosea 10:1, and Ezekiel 15 also portray Israel as a vine that failed to fulfill its calling. Against that background, Jesus' words carry strong force: life and faithfulness now center in Him.

Transition

Move from the biblical background to the vineyard practice behind Jesus' image.

Slide 11 Why grapevines require pruning

Scripture focus

John 15:2

Scripture reading

"He prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit."

Teaching manuscript

Grapes form on new shoots that grow from selected canes or spurs. A vinedresser removes much of the previous growth and keeps healthy buds that can support the coming crop.

Without regular pruning, a grapevine may produce excessive growth that consumes strength without producing the best fruit. Pruning directs the vine's resources toward productive shoots and helps the vinedresser manage the plant for the next harvest.

Use this horticultural background to clarify the image, but do not force every modern pruning technique into the passage. Jesus' central point concerns the Father's purposeful care and the disciple's dependence on Christ.

Transition

The cut may appear severe, yet the vinedresser acts with the future harvest in view.

Slide 12 Purposeful pruning

Scripture focus

John 15:2

Scripture reading

A skilled vinedresser cuts with the future harvest in view.

Teaching manuscript

From the branch's limited perspective, pruning looks like loss. From the vinedresser's perspective, the cut serves healthy growth and future fruit. The vinedresser sees the whole vine, understands the season, and knows which growth must be removed.

The illustration helps believers interpret seasons of correction and change. God may expose a sinful habit, redirect a priority, close an unhealthy path, or discipline a pattern that resists His word. The process can hurt without becoming cruel or meaningless.

The Father's goal in John 15 is more fruit. He does not prune because He has abandoned the fruitful branch. His pruning shows His active involvement in the disciple's life.

Transition

Apply the image carefully and connect pruning with the cleansing work of Jesus' word.

Slide 13 The Father prunes fruitful branches

Scripture focus

John 15:2-3 and Hebrews 12:10-11

Scripture reading

"You are clean already because of the word that I have spoken to you."

Teaching manuscript

John places pruning beside cleansing. The Greek terms are closely related, and Jesus emphasizes that His word has already cleansed the disciples. His truth continues to expose false desires and reshape their lives.

Hebrews 12 describes the Father's discipline as loving and purposeful. It may feel painful in the present, yet God uses it to produce holiness, righteousness, and peace. This connection helps us trust the Father while we respond honestly to His correction.

Do not identify every illness, disappointment, or loss as a punishment from God. Scripture does not authorize us to diagnose another person's suffering that way. We can say with confidence that the Father uses His word and His wise care to remove what hinders fruit.

Transition

Jesus next gives the central command of the chapter: remain in Me.

Slide 14 Abide means to stay and remain

Scripture focus

John 15:4-7

Scripture reading

Greek word: meno, meaning remain, stay, continue, or dwell.

Teaching manuscript

The repeated Greek verb meno describes continuing relationship and reliance. Abiding does not mean making an occasional spiritual visit when life becomes difficult. It means continuing to draw life from Jesus through faith.

Jesus connects remaining in Him with His words remaining in the disciples. His teaching enters the mind, shapes desires, directs obedience, and governs prayer. The disciple keeps returning to Christ as the source of truth and life.

Abiding is active dependence rather than anxious self-production. The branch receives life from the vine, and that received life produces fruit. Faith perseveres because its object is the living Christ.

Transition

Describe ordinary practices through which believers express continuing reliance on Christ.

Slide 15 Daily practices of abiding

Scripture focus

John 15:4-7 and Colossians 3:16

Scripture reading

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you."

Teaching manuscript

Receive Jesus' words before reacting to the day. Scripture gives the mind a stable truth before circumstances, news, fear, or anger establish the day's direction.

Pray until personal desires come under God's will. Prayer in Jesus' name seeks what honors His character and advances His purposes. Obey the truth you already understand instead of waiting for a new spiritual impression.

Depend on the Holy Spirit during temptation and witness. Remain connected to Christ's people through worship, fellowship, service, and practical love. These practices do not create spiritual life or earn Christ's acceptance. They express continued reliance on the One who gives life.

Transition

Define fruit broadly from the relationships and outcomes named throughout John 15.

Slide 16 Fruit grows from persevering dependence

Scripture focus

John 15:7, 10-12, 16, 27 and John 14:27

Scripture reading

John 15 connects fruit with prayer in Jesus' name, obedience to His commands, the experience of His joy, love for one another, and witness to the world.

Teaching manuscript

The fruit in the vine imagery is not limited to converts or personal character. Carson describes it as everything that results from effective prayer in Jesus' name: obedience to His commands, His joy, love for one another, and witness before the world.

Jesus' joy in verse 11 follows the peace He promised in John 14:27. His life shapes the disciple's inner experience as well as outward conduct. Remaining in His love produces obedience. His sacrificial love becomes the pattern for relationships within the church.

Verses 16 and 27 connect fruit with lasting mission and testimony. Fruit embraces the believer's whole life and Christian witness—the outcome of persevering, faith-driven dependence on the vine.

The branch does not manufacture fruit by straining harder. It remains in Christ, prays under His words, obeys, receives His joy, loves His people, and testifies about Him. Christ's life produces the fruit.

Transition

Jesus balances the promise of fruit with a serious warning about branches that do not remain.

Slide 17 Detached wood loses its usefulness

Scripture focus

John 15:6

Scripture reading

"If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out like a branch, and dries up."

Teaching manuscript

A detached branch no longer receives life from the vine. It dries and loses the ability to bear fruit. The image makes the consequence of separation visible.

Jesus speaks a warning rather than a lesson about low self-esteem. The issue is not whether a struggling believer has human worth. The issue is separation from the only source of spiritual life.

The movement from casting out to drying, gathering, and burning points toward judgment. The proper response is genuine faith in Christ that continues in His word and bears the fruit His life produces.

Transition

Ezekiel 15 explains why discarded vine wood carried a strong image of uselessness and judgment.

Slide 18 Vine wood and usefulness

Scripture focus

Ezekiel 15:1-8 and John 15:6

Scripture reading

Ezekiel asks whether wood from a vine can serve the ordinary purposes of timber. His answer prepares the image of judgment.

Teaching manuscript

Vine wood is twisted and generally unsuitable for construction. Its usefulness lies in bearing fruit while connected to the living vine. Once detached and dry, it cannot serve as strong timber.

Ezekiel 15 uses useless vine wood to warn Jerusalem about judgment. Jesus draws on the same agricultural reality when He speaks of branches gathered and burned.

The surrounding narrative includes Judas, who shared outward association with the disciples but did not continue in faithful union with Christ. John 15 calls hearers beyond outward religious attachment to living, persevering faith in Jesus.

Transition

The second movement of the chapter explains how remaining in Christ becomes visible through love, obedience, friendship, and mission.

Slide 19 Love obedience friendship and mission

Scripture focus

John 15:9-17

Scripture reading

9 “Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; remain in my love.

10 If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

11 I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete.

12 My commandment is this—to love one another just as I have loved you.

13 No one has greater love than this—that one lays down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 I no longer call you slaves because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.

17 This I command you—to love one another.

Teaching manuscript

Jesus places the disciples within the love shared between the Father and the Son. He commands them to remain in His love, and He explains that obedience expresses this continuing fellowship.

His purpose includes joy. Obedience to Christ does not lead to joyless religion. Jesus shares His own joy with those who remain in His love. That joy exists alongside the coming cross because it rests in communion with the Father and faithful obedience to His will.

Jesus commands the disciples to love one another as He has loved them. His approaching death defines the depth of that love. He also calls them friends because He has revealed what He heard from the Father. Finally, He reminds them that He chose and appointed them to go and bear lasting fruit.

Transition

Clarify the relationship between love and obedience so no one mistakes obedience for a way to purchase Christ's love.

Slide 20 Love and obedience belong together

Scripture focus

John 15:9-11

Scripture reading

"If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and remain in his love."

Teaching manuscript

The Father's love for the Son forms the pattern for Jesus' love toward His disciples. Jesus gives complete and costly love before the disciples can repay Him.

Obedience does not buy that love. It demonstrates that the disciple has received Christ's love and recognizes His authority. Love listens to Jesus and follows His commands.

This obedience preserves the enjoyment of fellowship with Christ. Jesus also promises that His joy will be in His disciples and that their joy will be complete. Love, obedience, and joy therefore belong together within the life of abiding.

Transition

Move from the principle of love to concrete actions within the church and daily relationships.

Slide 21 Sacrificial love becomes concrete

Scripture focus

John 15:12-13 and 1 John 3:16-18

Scripture reading

"My commandment is this - to love one another just as I have loved you."

Teaching manuscript

Jesus defines love by His own self-giving. The cross stands behind the command. Christian love therefore seeks another person's good even when service carries a cost.

Love becomes concrete when we listen patiently to someone who carries pain. It forgives without maintaining a private record for revenge. It serves when no recognition follows and protects unity by speaking truth with gentleness.

Sacrificial love also gives time, attention, and resources when those gifts interrupt personal convenience. Ask the congregation to identify one person who needs a specific act of Christlike love this week.

Transition

Jesus chooses His disciples and appoints them to carry this love beyond a comfortable inward circle.

Slide 22 Chosen people are sent people

Scripture focus

John 15:16

Scripture reading

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains."

Teaching manuscript

Christ's initiative comes first. The disciples did not create their calling or place Jesus under obligation. He chose them and appointed them for a purpose.

The command to go prevents election from becoming spiritual pride or a comfortable inward circle. Christ sends His people into mission. Lasting fruit includes the changed life of the disciple and witness through which others hear and believe.

Prayer in Jesus' name supports this mission. The disciple asks under Christ's authority, seeks His purpose, and depends on His provision. Christ's choice produces humility, love, prayer, and faithful witness.

Transition

Jesus prepares sent disciples for the opposition they may meet in the world.

Slide 23 The hatred of the world and the rejection of Jesus

Scripture focus

John 15:18-25

Scripture reading

18 “If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me first.

19 If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you do not belong to the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you.

20 Remember what I told you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they obeyed my word, they will obey yours too.

21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name because they do not know the one who sent me.

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But they no longer have any excuse for their sin.

23 The one who hates me hates my Father too.

24 If I had not performed among them the miraculous deeds that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen the deeds and have hated both me and my Father.

25 Now this happened to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without reason.’

Teaching manuscript

Jesus tells His disciples to remember that the world hated Him first. In John, the world often refers to humanity organized in rebellion against God. The disciples belong to Christ rather than to that rebellious order.

A servant is not greater than his master. Some people will receive the disciples' words because they received Jesus' word. Others will persecute them because they rejected Him. Opposition therefore should not automatically convince believers that they have failed.

Jesus' words and works reveal the Father and expose unbelief. The quotation about hatred without reason echoes Psalm 69:4. Greater revelation brings greater responsibility, yet the same Gospel that exposes sin also offers life through faith in Christ.

Transition

Explain how disciples should face opposition without pride, bitterness, or careless conduct.

Slide 24 Opposition should not surprise disciples

Scripture focus

John 15:18-21 and 1 Peter 3:15-16

Scripture reading

"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me first."

Teaching manuscript

Faithful disciples become associated with the rejected Son. Their message about Jesus may divide hearers just as Jesus' own words divided those who heard Him.

This warning does not authorize bitterness, arrogance, or harsh conduct. Believers must speak the truth with love and maintain a clear conscience. If offense comes, it should come from loyalty to Christ and His truth rather than from pride or carelessness.

Jesus gives this warning so His disciples will remain steady. They can continue loving, obeying, and witnessing because rejection does not remove them from the vine or place events outside the Father's care.

Transition

Jesus answers the pressure of opposition with the promise of the Spirit of truth.

Slide 25 The Spirit and the disciples testify

Scripture focus

John 15:26-27

Scripture reading

26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me,

27 and you also will testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

Teaching manuscript

Jesus promises the Advocate, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father. The Son sends the Spirit from the Father, and the Spirit testifies about the Son.

The disciples also testify because they have been with Jesus from the beginning. Their eyewitness witness becomes foundational to the church's proclamation of Jesus' words, works, death, and resurrection.

The two testimonies belong together. The Holy Spirit works through the truthful witness of Christ's people. He directs attention to Jesus and gives courage when the world resists the message.

Transition

Define the title Advocate and emphasize that the Holy Spirit is a personal divine witness.

Slide 26 The Spirit of truth empowers witness

Scripture focus

John 15:26 and John 14:16-17

Scripture reading

Greek word: parakletos, meaning one called alongside to help, advocate, or counsel.

Teaching manuscript

Parakletos describes one called alongside to help or advocate. Depending on context, translations use Helper, Advocate, or Counselor. Jesus promises another Advocate who will continue His ministry among the disciples.

The Spirit of truth is personal. He teaches, reminds, testifies, guides, and glorifies Christ. John does not present Him as an impersonal power that believers control.

The Spirit's witness remains centered on Jesus. Christian testimony should therefore speak truthfully about Jesus' identity, teaching, works, death, resurrection, and offer of life. The Spirit supplies courage and conviction while the disciple supplies faithful words and conduct.

Transition

John 15:26 also displays the distinct work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Slide 27 Father Son and Spirit act distinctly

Scripture focus

John 15:1 and John 15:26

Scripture reading

*The Father tends the vine. The Son is the true vine and sends the Spirit from the Father.
The Spirit testifies about the Son.*

Teaching manuscript

John 15 contributes to the biblical foundation for the Trinity by placing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit within one saving work while preserving personal distinction.

The Father tends the vine and stands as the source from whom the Spirit proceeds. The Son is the true vine and sends the Spirit from the Father. The Spirit of truth comes and testifies about the Son.

The text does not confuse the persons. The Son does not testify about Himself under another name, and the Spirit does not replace the Father or the Son. Father, Son, and Spirit act distinctly and harmoniously in salvation and witness. Compare John 1:1, John 14:16-17, and John 20:28.

Transition

Invite the congregation to respond to the chapter with three focused application questions.

Slide 28 Questions for personal response

Scripture focus

John 15:1-27

Teaching manuscript

1. What competes with your daily dependence on Christ?
2. What may the Father be pruning in this season?
3. Do Jesus' words shape your prayers and decisions?

Allow time for honest thought or discussion. Encourage specific responses. The purpose is to identify where faith must rely on Christ more fully, where the Father's correction needs a willing response, and where Jesus' words need greater authority over prayer and daily choices.

Transition

End with the Gospel invitation. The call to remain begins with coming to Jesus in faith.

Slide 29 Come to Jesus and receive life

Scripture focus

John 15:1-6 and John 20:31

Scripture reading

Jesus is the true vine and the eternal Son of God. He died for sinners and rose again.

Teaching manuscript

The invitation of John's Gospel is to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and to receive life in His name. Turn from sin, trust Him, and confess Him as Lord.

Salvation joins us to Christ by grace through faith. Fruit does not earn salvation. Fruit follows living union with the Savior who gives eternal life.

For the believer, the invitation is also a call to continue. Remain in Christ. Let His words remain in you. Trust the Father's care, obey Jesus' commands, love His people, and testify through the Holy Spirit's power.

Transition

Conclude by clearly inviting anyone who has not trusted Christ to respond in repentance and faith.