



The Vine | Week 7 | Doug Wekenman | 4.13-14

Weekly Study

SHARE

- Looking back on this past series, recap with your group each of the seven “I am” statements. What one is impacting you the most in this season of your life?

GROW

We have reached the final week of our “I AM” series here at Red Rocks! Through this series we have walked through the seven “I am” statements Jesus made about himself in the gospel of John. This week, Jesus tells us this: **“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing,” (John 15:5)**. Remaining in Jesus is like riding a current of water that takes you where you need to go. There is no prerequisite to remaining in Jesus. You’re already chosen and ready because he paid your ticket to ride the current of his grace. When you remain in Jesus, you are where you need to be: Connected to the source of life that wants to produce fruit of the spirit within you and kingdom impact through you.

- Read Galatians 5:22-23.** What are the fruits of the spirit, or characteristics of The Holy Spirit, that you have seen grown in you since you started your walk with God?
- What does kingdom impact mean to you? What does it look like to build God’s kingdom on Earth?

Read John 15:1-8

- Discuss this passage with your group. What are your initial thoughts? What is resonating most with you?
- How have you seen this passage at work in your life?
- What areas do you need God to help you prune in your life that are holding you back?

## MOVE

God isn't asking us to do anything new when he says, "Remain." He is just asking for him to be the first place we remain. Where are you remaining currently? Ask yourself - What are your sources of peace, happiness, safety, and meaning that you go to to fill you up? Where does your mind drift to when you're not busy? Where do you spend your free time and money? In an era of scrolling, streaming, and self-indulgence, which of these is taking most of your time and energy?

- What are your answers to the questions in the above paragraph? Are any of these draining your energy or motivation?**
- Think about a personal problem you're facing today. Is scrolling, streaming, or self-indulgence feeding into that problem or maybe not letting you deal with it?**
- What does remaining in God *not* look like? How have you experienced being "close-by yet not connected" to God?**

### Being Two Places at Once

*"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

It is impossible to physically be in two places at once. But our attention can take our minds to other worlds without our body moving an inch. When you direct your attention back to God throughout your day, God becomes the main avenue in your mind. In other words, going to God with your emotions, questions, even sharing the simple moments of your day with God, is what remaining in him looks like. He becomes your source of life that builds you up and reminds you who you are, instead of draining you or leaving you stagnant.

- Share your experiences of bringing your awareness back to God throughout your day.**
- How has your awareness of God grown your relationship with God?**
- What are the ways prayer has helped you in life? What prayers have you seen or felt God answer lately?**

### Quiet Time

A common phrase in Christian culture today. Yet, it doesn't have to include the perfect coffee, journal, or ambience. All it is is finding time in your day where you are free of distraction and you can be alone with God. Spend time reading the Bible and learning about God for 15 minutes of your day. Pray, talk to God your Father or Jesus your friend and watch how you step back into the business of life feeling more grounded. By connecting, you are remaining in God, like a vine connecting to its branch.

- What are the moments in your life where you have been alone with God or experienced a powerful quiet time? Share your experiences with the group.**
- What have you learned about God during time in the bible or prayer? What have you learned about the way God feels about you?**
- When you think about time you've spent with God in the past, how much of that time do you spend focusing on yourself? What would it look like for you to focus on who God is rather than who you are next time you read the bible?**

### **Playing the Long Game**

We are more restless nowadays. Least likely to play the long game, most likely to already be thinking and planning for the next thing. Yet, the answer isn't arriving in the next stage of life, or next relationship, or new job or house. The answer is abiding where you are *today*. That is why Jesus wants you to remain in him. We can be tossed to and fro by our emotions, living in the past or the future. Yet, Jesus reminds you that he is here with you in the present. In your 9 to 5, in your marriage, in your free time, in your loneliness, in any circumstance or state you find yourself in, bring your awareness back to God. Through this, you will transform into who he made you to be in *his time*. In an instant gratification, constantly optimizing, striving for greatness world, Jesus is telling you to simply remain in him. Trust that he will guide your steps and equip you with everything you need.

- What does it look like to remain in God in the mundane parts of your day? How have you experienced God in the simple, seemingly insignificant moments of your life?**
- What is a long season of waiting you have endured with God? What is it like to wait with God versus without him?**
- How has God impacted your life with his timing?**
- How did God answer a prayer in a different way than you expected?**

### **P R A Y**

Have 1-2 people close in prayer. Join together with 2-3 people, share prayer requests and pray for each other.