# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 15

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background: John 15:1-17 - Jesus gives a picture of a disciple (to his disciples) of what it looks like to be in a relationship with Jesus... I think this is a great way in YL of saying, “before you make any decision about Christ you should know what you are saying ‘yes’ to, in other words what you can expect”1. Jesus is the vine, the source
2. We are called to “remain” = to settle-in long term
3. Jesus pours into our life through 1) love, 2) his words
4. When you remain in Christ the fruit will be 1) love, 2) prayer, 3) obedience, 4) joy
5. When you get out of line God will “prune” you so that you will become fruitful

This is a brief, and does not attempt to be comprehensive, picture of a disciple  |
| Possible main point(s):* If you wanted to know what it looks like to follow Jesus... he paints for us a great picture...
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus gives a clear picture of a healthy relationship with him
* Jesus is the vine... the source of life
* Jesus lays down his life for us as the ultimate example of his love for us
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| What this has to do with our life:* We are given a clear picture of what saying yes to Jesus is all about
* We are not expected to be the source of a healthy relationship with Jesus, Jesus is the vine, we are just the branches
* When we say yes to Jesus and remain in him, allowing him to prune us, fruit will come in our life
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| Relevant technical details:* Vine ... picture of Israel (Ps. 80-8-18); Jesus is the true vine, the truest expression of the hopes of Israel
* “prunes” (v.2) / “clean” (v.3) = these are virtually the same word in Greek, the writer is assuming that the reader will catch this. Those who have been cleaned, i.e. the disciples, both outwardly and inwardly (see Jn. 13 Jesus’ washing of their feet), also are those who continue to be pruned/cleaned.
* “fruit” = visible/outward evidence of the nature/identity of a tree, also important to know that fruit exists for the benefit of others, not for the tree itself
* “Remain” = to stay / remain / live with / make your home. It implied a long-term and settled state of being.
* “my words” (v.7) = the statements of Jesus
* “ask” (vv.7, 16) = to request something, sometimes it is even translated “beg”
* “obey my commands” (v.10) = to keep God’s commandments and/or his word(s)
* “love” = agape love, self-less, Christ-like love for God and others
* “greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (v.13)
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| Possible illustrations:* Bring in a small plant/vine/tree
* Water it as an example of God’s 1) love, 2) word
* Prune it as an example of God’s loving correction (in order to help more fruit come)
* Bring in fruit or clip words printed out onto the tree 1) love, 2) prayer, 3) obedience, 4) joy
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

John 15 (NIV84)

*The Vine and the Branches*

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

*The World Hates the Disciples*

18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for 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. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

26 “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.