

Preparation Questions

John 15.1– 17

Jesus – the true vine

Opener: If you were to ask your friends and colleagues for advice on how to live an effective and productive life, what kinds of things might they say?

Text 1: In v1-2 what is Jesus a) claiming about himself and b) saying the Father wants in the world?

- a)
- b)

OT Sharpener: How do Old Testament references to ‘the vine’ (eg. Psalm 80: 7-19, Isaiah 5:3-7 & Isaiah 27: 6) help sharpen our understanding of what Jesus is claiming for himself and what the Father wants?

Context Sharpener: Why do you think Jesus might be speaking like this given what he and his disciples have just been talking about? *(see also - John 4:35-38 & 12.24,32 & 13:16,34-35 & 14:12,22)*

Text 2: Have a go at filling in this table

Jesus - the true vine - is the way that God will produce ‘fruit’ in the world for his glory – but how does this happen?

The vine image – v3-8	The vine image explained – v9-16
<p>(v3) Entry to the vine is made possible by ...</p> <p>(v4) Being a fruit- bearing branch means ...</p> <p>(v5- 6) Consequences of abiding and not abiding in the true vine ...</p> <p>(v7) Jesus abiding in us means ...</p> <p>(v7-8) The result of abiding is ...</p>	<p>(v9-11) Abiding in Jesus involves ... <i>(Hint ch5.20 helps us understand what Jesus means when he says, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you...”)</i></p> <p>(v12-15) Keeping Jesus’ commands particularly involves ...</p> <p>(v16) How does this encourage and help us define the fruit that Jesus will produce as his disciples abide?</p>
<p>Sum up the promise Jesus is making to his disciples in this passage:</p>	

Apply: If Christians want to impact the world for God, what should they focus on according to this passage and why is this so encouraging? How does Jesus’ description of being a disciple compare with our current priorities and plans?

Jesus has made a similar point to V17 in a number of places now. Why is this so important? What does it mean to lay down our lives for other Christians in the City?