

April 21, 2024

Bearing Fruit John 15 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 14 Num. 16

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

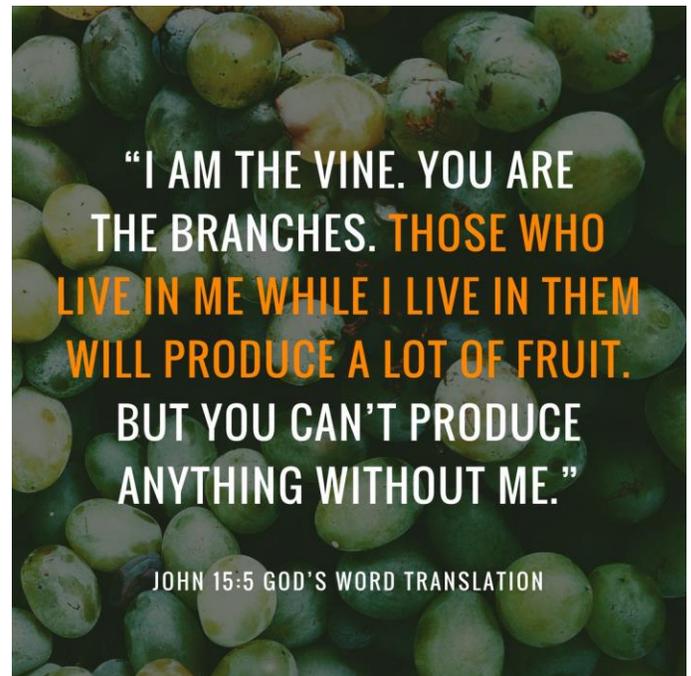
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

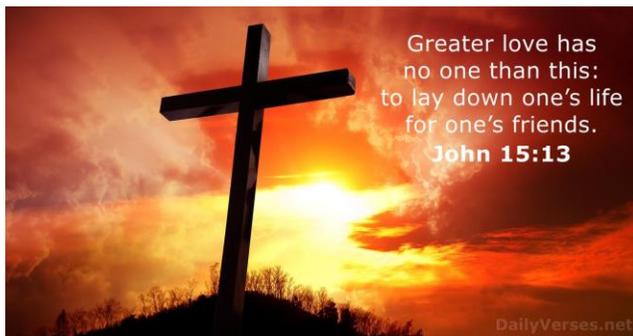
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will study John Chapter 15. Jesus is teaching the disciples about bearing fruit in their lives. We cannot bear fruit apart from Him. Just as the vine is the source of life for the branch, Jesus is the source of life for us, and we need Him to bear fruit. Join us this week as we talk about what it looks like for us to bear fruit in our lives.



The Vine and the Branches

15 "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.

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.

The World's Hatred

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.**' **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.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

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10.

🕒 Explore His Word (Interpretation) (For Community group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

1. What does it mean to bear fruit? (1-5)
2. Why does the branch dry up? (5-6)
3. Is there a benefit for obeying Jesus' commandments? (9-10)
4. What is the greatest love? (12-13)
5. Is there a condition placed on receiving whatever we ask? (7-8, 16)
6. What is the command given? (17)
7. What sin are they guilty of? (22-24)

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

8. What does it mean for you to bear fruit in your life? Give some examples from your life?

9. Jesus promises to answer prayers, but there is a condition. What should we pray for?

10. What is the main idea of this passage? How can you apply the main idea to your life?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes