

BE THE BRANCH NOT THE GARDENER
Next Steps Devotional Guide — John 15:1-11
October 19, 2025
Sermon Series > The Gospel of John
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1. If you have ever planted any kind of plant, vegetable, fruit tree, shrubs and etc, how much care did they require?
2. We saw that in John 15, Jesus breaks His word to His disciples into thirds. The first third is about our relationship with Him. The second third is about our relationship to each other. The final third is about our relationship to the world. In each of these thirds, what is the most challenging for you personally and why?
3. In John 15, we come to Jesus 7th and final “I am” saying. John takes us all the way back to Moses in Exodus 3:13-14, where God gave His name to us — Yahweh — “I Am that I Am.” What is the significance of this for you?
4. We learned several truths that we must remember from John 15. Look over the 1st major truth/lesson on this, read the verse with it as well as the sub-points. What is the major life lesson you will apply to your life from this and why?
5. We learned a 2nd major lesson/truth we must remember from John 15. Look over the second point on this, read the verse with it as well as the sub-points. What is the major life lesson you will apply to your life from this and why?
6. We looked at and learned why God prunes us. Look at the points for this, read the verse with it as well as the sub-points. What is the major life lesson you will apply to your life from this and why?
7. We learned there is no pruning without pain because God is more interested in our character than in our comfort. In what ways has the Lord pruned you and what lessons did you learn?
8. We learned a 3rd major lesson/truth from John 15. The word “abide” appears 11 times in the first 11 verses of John 15. What is the personalized message Jesus is saying to you because of this? How does Acts 1:8 relate to this?
9. Read John 10:10 and Philippians 4:13 in your sermon notes. Jesus makes a comparison between the thief (the devil) and Himself. In what ways through His strength has Jesus helped you live the abundant life?
10. We learned a 4th major lesson/truth from John 15. There are many false Christians, false believers in the church. They are really a Judas.
11. We looked again 3 great benefits we get when we abide in Christ. Read the 1st benefit, John 15:7, and the sub-point also. Jesus says that prayer and promise are always linked together in Scripture. When and where in your life has this been true for you?
12. Read the 2nd benefit we get from abiding in Christ as well as John 15:8-10. Jesus gave us a word picture on how we can abide in Him. Obey Him as He obeyed the Father. This frees us

from legalism, traditions, rules, rituals and regulations. If someone were to look at your life, how would they say you are obeying Jesus just as He obeyed His Father, the Gardener?

13. Read the 3rd benefit we get from abiding in Christ as well as Hebrews 12:2 and John 15:11. Jesus had a joy which could endure a cross and crucifixion. How was it possible for Jesus, knowing the events that were about to unfold in a few hours — His arrest, His scourging, going through 6 illegal trials, His crucifixion and death — how would He be joyful about that? So, what does this tell you about your attitude when going through something harsh?
14. Read Nehemiah 8:10 and Philippians 4:4. Are you settling for an incomplete joy? If so, why? Jesus promises you an limitless reservoir of joy no matter your situation, circumstances or surroundings. If this is not your experience, why is that? What do you need to do for it to be?