



TLC Study Guide for April 29, 2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. That means He is the source of our life and that our purpose is to bear fruit. God prunes the branches so that they will become even more fruitful. That means that we can trust God's good purposes when we encounter challenges and suffering, and look for the abundant fruit that we bear when we remain connected to the vine.

Getting Started:

1. What are the first plants that produce green leaves or flowers in the spring? What signs of spring have you seen already?
2. Share what plants you have or take care of. Do you plant any flowers or a vegetable garden?

In the Word: Read John 15:1-8

3. This is the 7th great "I AM" statement of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Divvy up the following verses and look up the other 6 and write them down here, and discuss how they relate to the Exodus passage.

John 8:12 & 9:5

John 10:7, 9

John 10:11, 14

John 11:25

John 14:6

Exodus 3:13-14

4. Jesus didn't simply call himself "the vine", but said that He was the "TRUE vine." What does that imply if Jesus is the "true vine"?

5. In what ways does the Father “prune” us – the branches – and what is the purpose of this “pruning?” (vs 2)

6. We are to be fruitful branches. Look up **Ephesians 5:8-9** and **Galatians 5:22-23** and list the fruits of faith that are listed in those passages. How many do you come up with total?

7. Not only are we to remain in Jesus, the true vine, but He is also remaining in us! In what way does Jesus say He remains in us (verse 7) and what does that look like in *your* life?

8. How is God the Father truly glorified, as Jesus states in verse 8?

9. Do you feel like you have been “pruned” at all lately? In what ways?

10. How do you (personally) stay connected to Christ, the true vine?

Prayer: Ask God to help you bear the fruit of faith in your life, and to stay connected to Christ, our true vine. Ask God to give you patience and trust when He is carefully pruning you, so that you may bear abundant fruit. Rejoice in the fullness of life we have in Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us claim that full life each and every day.

Next Week: We continue through this chapter of John by looking at the next passage from John 15, where Jesus calls His disciples His friends. Jesus calls us His friends! Maybe your friend that you invited to Friendship Sunday would want to come back for this continued study of Jesus’ teachings.