



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

Growing Together, Rooted in Faith - Colossians 2:7



THIS MONTH, WE WILL EXPLORE THE PROFOUND TRUTHS IN JOHN 15 WHERE JESUS DECLARES, "I AM THE TRUE VINE," AND DELVE INTO THE THEMES OF REMAINING IN HIM AND HIS LOVE, UNDERSTANDING HIS FRIENDSHIP, AND LIVING AS THOSE NOT OF THIS WORLD.



FAMILY LIFE RESOURCES

Growing Together, Rooted in Faith - Colossians 2:7

We are thrilled to announce that we are expanding our family resources here at First Church! Our heartfelt mission is to empower and equip parents to guide their children in this endeavor to love, honor, and serve God with their lives. We aim not only to provide a vibrant, faith-filled, and enjoyable environment for your children within our church community but also to acknowledge that a few hours out of 168 hours that make up a week isn't enough time to focus on or walk with God. We understand the challenges of busy schedules and endless household tasks, which is why we're dedicated to offering resources that are easy to use, relevant, and, most importantly, honor God with the goal of supporting you and your family. We pray these resources make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Family Life Ministries

Colossians 2:7 Let your roots grow down into Him,
And let your lives be built on Him.

Then, your faith will grow strong in
The truth you were taught...



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

The Work of the Resurrected Christ

SUMMER 2024

JUNE

Jesus Christ Our Lord (John 14:6)

- The Way
- The Truth
- The Life

JULY

VBS Follow Up & Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20)

- Kingdom Warfare
- Our Protection
- Our Purpose
- Using the Sword
- Pray At All Times

AUGUST

"I Am the True Vine" (John 15:1)

- Remain in Me
- Remain in My Love
- I Call You Friends
- Not of This World

FALL 2024

SEPTEMBER

We Believe (The coming of the Holy Spirit)

OCTOBER

I Am ... The Bread of Life



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

I Am the True Vine

John 15:1

John 15 is a personal discourse between Jesus and His close disciples. As His Disciples we should read and take to heart His encouragement to stay close and spend time with Him.

As His life flows through us His fruit will appear in our lives. This is God's plan and brings Him Glory.

LESSON 1

Remain in Me

Parent's Passage: John 15:1-12

Family Reading: John 15:1- 5

Key Verse: John 15:5

*"I Am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in Me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from Me you can do nothing."*

In John 14:31, Jesus closes His time with His disciples around their last meal together. He says, ***"Come now, let us leave"*** and as they walk He gives them an admonishment to stay close to Him.

They had been traveling with Him for most of the past three years, but they were yet to realize that the present relationship was coming to an end. As they walk together, He talks with them about how fruit comes to harvest - by staying on the vine.

If a branch is cut off, it withers. The branch must stay connected to the vine to bear fruit. As they walked, they would naturally see the vineyards around them.

This lesson is most effective when given in the vicinity of a garden or a park. Let's follow Jesus' example and go for a walk - and talk about Jesus!

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FAMILY ACTIVITY

"The Vine and the Branches"



Use a healthy plant as an example of Jesus as our vine. Break off a branch and leave it beside the plant.

Talk about how, apart from Jesus Christ in our life, we can not grow or bear any fruit.

Challenge for older students:

See how many times you can find the phrases "bear fruit" and "remain in Me" from John 15.

Talk about how these two concepts go together.

John 15:1-12

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also 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."

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

LESSON 2

Remain in My Love

Parent's Passage: John 15:1-12

Family Reading: John 15:9-12

Key Verse: John 15:9

***"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love"***

Jesus gives us a heavenly perspective in this passage. It starts with the Heavenly Father. He loves His Son Jesus! Yet, He was willing for Him to leave the glory of heaven and come to earth.

Jesus loves us, and because of His great love, He was willing to pay our penalty for our sins, which cost Him His life.

We know God loves us, and Jesus loves us. To remain in that love is the challenging part.

When we walk on this earth, it is sometimes difficult to remain in the love of Christ when difficulties come upon us.

John 15 explains clearly that in God's garden, pruning the vines is a regular part of the vine dresser's work. God's glorious plan is for His people to bear fruit through Christ.

When uncomfortable issues arise in our lives, we need to realize that it may be God is pruning us to bring about fruitfulness.

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(Family Activity)

Poverty, humility, separation, and pain can be used by our loving Heavenly Father to draw us close to Him and make us fruitful.

Read the passage and use the following family activities to help your family understand that our Father's love is not dependent upon our earthly circumstances.

FAMILY ACTIVITY 1

"Remain in Me"
"Remain in My love"

What does it mean to Remain in Christ? How do we Remain in His Love? How do we practice "Abiding in Christ?"

Together, lead your family in a discussion of, "Jesus dwelling in us." There is a little book titled, "*If Jesus came to my house*" by Joan Gale Thomas. It is written to imagine Jesus coming to our home for a visit.

With this in mind, go around the table and have each person complete the sentence, "*If Jesus came to my house ...*"

Other ideas for inviting Jesus in include:

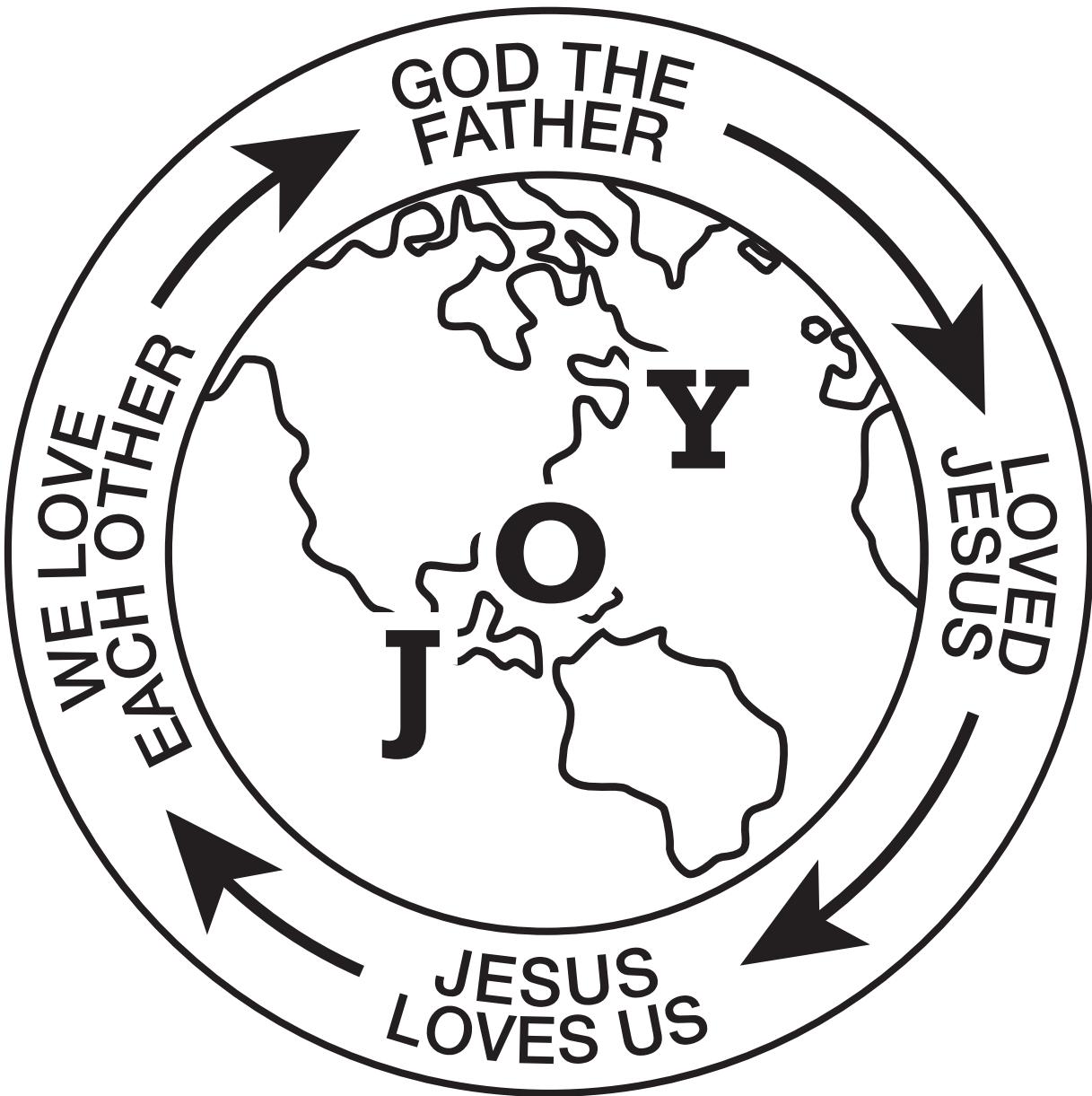
- Set a place at the table for Him
- Say a prayer inviting Jesus along as you travel
- Remind children that He is with us through the night.

FAMILY ACTIVITY 2

John 15:9-12

"⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept 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.

John 15:9-12 is a “God’s Eye View” of His plan for us. This is a great passage to commit to memory. If verses 9-12 seem like too much, focus on verses 9, 10, and 12. Verse 11 is great, too!



LESSON 3

I Call You Friends

Parent's Passage: John 15:13-17

Family Reading: Matthew 19:13-15
Mark 10:13-16

Key Verse: John 15:14

"You are my friends if you do what I command."

Our Family Passage in this lesson pictures Jesus surrounded by children. It portrays Him laying hands on them and blessing them. They are precious to Him.

His disciples also share a special bond with Him. He extends this same friendship to us. We can claim friendship with Jesus Christ. He assures us of important matters in relationship:

- **We can know His business**
- **What He has learned He shares with us**
- **He choose us and appointed us**
- **He listens to us**

CONCLUSION

We can walk in friendship with Jesus. Remaining in His love is remaining in fellowship with Him.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus: Thank You for calling us as Your friends. Thank you for sharing the Holy Spirit with us. Thank You for bringing us Peace, and Joy. Help us to remain in your love always. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Being Friends with Jesus

Jesus gave His Disciples many examples of friendship. He became friends with a tax collector. He ate meals with people who were looked down upon. He reached out to touch a leper.

As a friend of Jesus Christ, we should follow His example. As a family, talk about ways your family can follow the example of Jesus.

What are some ways you can show the kindness of Jesus to others?

LESSON 4

Not of This World

Parent's Passage: John 15:18-25

Family Reading: John 14:1-4

Key Verse: John 15:19b

"You do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world."

In John chapter 13-16, Jesus is giving His final teaching to His disciples. Yet they do not comprehend how quickly their time of being together is coming to an end. He is trying to prepare them for His death.

He understands fully that He is a part of the Heavenly Kingdom.

He came to earth for a few short years, and very soon, He will return to His Father. He wants the same for His followers. He has chosen us out of this world. Our eternal home is Heaven!

Jesus Prays for Us

John 17:1-7

"After speaking He looked toward Heaven and prayed: Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

(Continued next page)

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

CONCLUSION

As we review John 15 we can see that Jesus has clearly laid out Kingdom principles. The Heavenly Father is in charge as the Gardener. All life flows through Jesus. All love starts with the Father and flows through Christ to us.

Fruitfulness is a mandate of the Kingdom, and God intends to prune us to bear fruit.

But, when everything is said and done we have our home in Heaven. Five times, in the chapter, Jesus instructs us to ***"Remain in Me"***. Five times He says to ***"Remain in My love"***.

We need to **press in close** to Jesus!

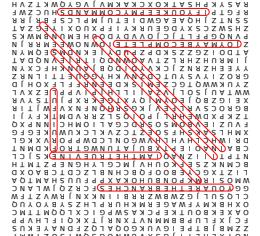
ACTIVITY - JOHN 15 WORD SEARCH

Find the words and phrases listed below from John 15 in this word search.

NOT X E H L T I J G S X V U W N O G S Q W Y S O Z Y W M F
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O A X E K B O U T K E P C K A S W P G I C X L Q Q M T T M C
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R A S Y K P H S A T K O X C K A K M V J V G Y Q W K T Z V H

- MY FATHER IS THE GARDENER
- IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDS
- JOY MAY BE COMPLETE
- I AM THE TRUE VINE
- HE PRUNES
- YOU ARE THE BRANCHES
- I ALSO REMAIN IN YOU
- I HAVE LOVED YOU
- FRUITFUL

(Word Search Answer Key)





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