

WORSHIP  
In the Winter

# Life on the VINE

SERMON RESOURCE

# OUR LITURGY



*The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.  
Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!*

## CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

What's a time you realized you were "running on empty" (emotionally, spiritually, relationally)? What did that season make you reach for? Jesus' picture in John 15 is that life with God is less about trying harder and more about staying connected—like a branch connected to a vine.

## REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Read John 15:1–17 (NIV)

### **The picture: Vine, branches, gardener (vv. 1–5)**

- What stands out to you about Jesus calling the Father "the gardener" (v.1)?
- Jesus says: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (v.5). Where do you feel tempted to live "self-powered" right now
- What gets in the way of remaining? (vv. 4–5, 9–10)
- Which "default picture" do you drift toward when life is hard?
- **Taskmaster:** "If I do more, God will be happy."
- **Distant:** "I'm on my own."
- From John 15, what 1–2 supports do you need most right now?: "If I do the right things, God will show up."
- How does that view affect your ability to remain?
- A simple "trellis" to help you remain (vv. 3, 7, 12, 17)

***"Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning." Dallas Willard***

***"For a vine to grow well it needs a trellis..." John Mark Comer***

- From John 15, what 1–2 supports do you need most right now?
- **Word** (vv.3,7): What would "faithful, not heroic" Scripture time look like this week?
- **Prayer** (v.7): Where do you need to ask for help?
- Read Romans 8:26 (NIV):
- "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."



- **Love/community** (vv.12,17): Who might God be inviting you to love intentionally this week?
- The fruit of remaining (vv. 8, 11–13, 15)
- What fruit does Jesus name that you want to grow in you right now (joy, love, closeness/friendship with God)?
- What's one area you've been trying to force fruit instead of remaining?



## APPLICATION

— 30 MINUTES

**Quietly reflect:** Where have you been living “apart from the vine”—self-powered or disconnected?

**Pray simply:** “Jesus, help me remain. Keep me connected. Teach me to live in your love.”

**Choose ONE trellis step for the week:**

Read John 15 daily (even a few verses), *OR*

One honest prayer line each morning (“Help me stay”), *OR*

One intentional act of love + one step toward community.

