

Discussion and Reflection Questions
Lent 4 - I AM vine - 15th of February 2026

Read: John 15:1-12

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Questions

1. In verse 4 Jesus says, “Abide in me as I abide in you.” What do you think it practically means to abide in Christ?
2. Grapevines often appear lifeless for much of the year. How might this help us understand seasons of spiritual life that feel quiet or unproductive?
3. Jesus speaks about abiding almost twice as often as bearing fruit. What does this suggest about how Christians should measure spiritual growth & maturity?
4. Grape vines are “trained” (pruned or cleansed) so that branches grow in ways that maximise life and fruit. What practices might help shape or “train” our spiritual lives?
5. Verse 6 seems harsh & judgemental. Do we as followers & Church members have a role to play in this judgement?
6. Jesus says that abiding in him shapes our prayer life (v.7). How might a deep relationship with Christ change what we ask God for & how we pray?
7. The fruit we bear is meant for the benefit of others, not ourselves. How does this change the way we think about spiritual success or maturity?

Prayer

Gardener of our lives,
tend us with your patient hand

and prune us for the bearing of good fruit.
Plant us beside the waters of your delight,
that the Spirit's gifts may grow within us.
Keep us abiding in Christ,
the true vine whose life flows through every branch.
Let our joy be complete in love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.