* **What is something you know you couldn’t do without someone else’s help?**

Jesus was a perfect teacher. He often used stories to communicate big truths about God in ways we could easily understand, and sometimes He drew our attention to look at nature to understand who we are in relation to God. In John 15, Jesus uses the imagery of a vine and branches to describe our relationship with Him.

*Read John 15:1-4*

* **What does this imagery tell you about our relationship with Jesus?**
* If Jesus is the true vine, **what are some “false vines” you have attached yourself to at one time or another?**

*Read John 15:5*

* **What is your first response when you hear this from Jesus? In what ways are we dependent on Him?**

In His final moments before His betrayal and death, Jesus is making sure that His disciples understand and remember many different things before they are separated. Jesus would go on to describe why He was placing so much emphasis on the illustration of vine and branches.

*Read John 15:11*

* **How is joy from the Holy Spirit different from happiness? What does it mean for it to be complete?**

*Read Galatians 5:22-23*

* Reflect on the list of gifts from the Holy Spirit. **Who comes to mind as an example of one of these gifts lived out? What is it about their life that makes it so clear?**
* **Which of those gifts would you like to grow in?**

Throughout Jesus’ instructions in John 15, the word “remain” occurs 11 times. He is reminding us that if we, the branches, are to be connected to the vine, we must remain in Him. Our strength to walk through life is not dependent on our own ability or might, but rather on our willingness to surrender to His will and our desire to stay connected to Him.

* **What does it mean to remain in Jesus?**
* **What can you do this week to start prioritizing connection with Jesus?**