



VINTAGE ADVENTURE

@ HOME

I AM THE TRUE VINE

Dear Friends,

A very warm welcome to this edition looking at the “I am-s” of Jesus, “I am the true vine.”

The hot weather we’ve had reminds us of what it feels like to live in a warmer climate and to watch grapes grow and ripen in the sun, grow in the rain. There are over 900 vineyards in the UK now, and English wine is very good, we even have our own sparkling champagne-like wine.

When it is winter and the vines are barren, all seems fruitless, but then spring arrives, inspiration, the warmth of the sun, the spirit of God and the buds break forth and become a wild abundant flourish of leaves. As we enter summer, the grapes come, and are small and green, but with the sun and warm rain, they swell and become heavy with promise.

What if spiritual growth is about making wine? It is a process of cultivating the vine, season after season, to produce something wonderful for people to enjoy. Like you! Each season has its own flavour, depending on the environment and circumstances.... Ah yes, 1957 was a very good year! What was a good year for your spiritual growth?

I pray that you will ponder about Jesus as the Vine and God as the Vine Keeper, and how, as the sun and rain, it is the Holy Spirit Who joins it all together.

(Psalm 133:1-3)

With best wishes

Ros and the Caraway Team

WORSHIP

I Am The True Vine



Opening Scripture

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him, produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."

Opening Prayer

Jesus, You are the true vine and we are the branches. We give thanks for Your blessings and the fruit that You have planted in us. Help us to stay connected to You, so that we can bear more good fruit.

Hymn

You are the Vine,
We are the branches,
Keep us abiding in You.

Then we will grow in Your love,
And we'll go in Your name,
That the world will surely know
That You have power to heal
And to save.

Scripture verses

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the words I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. John 15:1-2



Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for abiding in us and we in You. How wonderful and how marvellous it is that we are connected to the True Vine the moment we receive you as our Saviour. Lord protect us from “false vines” in the world today. Lord teach us to pray knowing You are listening. Help us to grow in our faith and trust in You as we go out in your name to share with others the gospel message. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Reflection

John Chapter 15

*Are there times when you feel that you have become
unconnected from Jesus?*

If we become distracted from God's purpose for our lives we can soon become spiritually disconnected from Jesus and will not bear fruit. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We cannot survive without being supported by the vine. I remember a time of spiritual dryness and like in these verses I felt that I was spiritually withering. I had stopped going to church, bible studies and home groups. I soon surrendered to the Lord and asked His forgiveness and to bring me back to Him. I was soon back with my spiritual family and filled once again with His fruit of Love and Joy.

Sadly we will all fall in the shade at times but there is good news! God the Father is our gardener, the vine dresser who prunes and waters the vine. He will raise up the branches that have fallen into the shade and are not producing fruit. He lifts up the fallen branches and places them back into the sunshine to be restored and filled with the fruit of His Spirit.



Fruit of The Spirit - *by John Knight*

LOVE is the Power - flows through all the nine
through faith in Christ I share God's love divine.

JOY from the Spirit working in my life
creates a happy person - free from strife.

PEACE is a trait that's hard to find today
Satan seeks to sweep all our peace away.

PATIENCE is a virtue we should possess
with patience everyone we meet we bless.

KINDNESS is a pure Christlike attitude
in a world that is so unkind - and rude.

GOODNESS in an evil world is so rare
It helps each godly Christian show we care.

FAITHFUL to our Lord family and friends
faithfulness is a virtue without an end.

GENTLENESS like a mother with her child
the opposite - aggressive world gone wild.

MODERATE in all things should Christians be
please let God's Holy Spirit work in me!

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your blessings. We know that all our gifts come from you. May we always give of ourselves. May we use our gifts in a way that shows our gratitude for them. Give us the strength to reach out to others in need. May we also be willing to make sacrifices for the benefit of our fellow human beings.

In Jesus Name, Amen

Reflection

I am the true vine.....or “how to tend your garden”!

I wonder how many of you reading this enjoy working in or looking at a beautifully cultivated garden? I know I do....I don't have particularly green fingers, but I do know that if I do not keep an eye on things, my garden will be overrun with weeds and my flowers and vegetables will not flourish! I need to water and feed my garden frequently in order for everything to thrive.

Jesus' statement "I am the true Vine and my Father is the Gardener" was made to the disciples shortly before He was to be betrayed by Judas, and in the context of a series of chapters all designed to comfort and encourage the disciples, whose morale was at an all-time low because they knew their beloved friend would be leaving them. He wanted to leave them instructions on how to keep strong as a team, how to build each other up, how to be effective witnesses and how to glorify Him.



Folk at the time would have known all about growing grapes and keeping a vine under control in order to get the best yield, so they would have received Jesus' message loud and clear. Jesus was urging the disciples to stay close to Him, the true vine – even when He is gone – and to each other.

The branch cannot produce grapes unless it is attached to the main vine, so they were to “remain” in Him, to keep His commands, read His word and pray together. If any part of the vine did not bear fruit, it should be removed and discarded – rather like dead-heading your roses – so that the vine’s energy all went into producing beautiful grapes.

Jesus also instructed the disciples

“to remain in my love” and to “love each other”

He knew that life would get tough, and it would be very difficult to go it alone! This is just as relevant to us today. There is another important component of tending to our gardens so that we weed out anything which is not productive – we must care for our relationships as well as our garden. We need to support and build each other up in love. I wonder if “remaining in my love” might mean that we keep a strong focus on our walk with the Lord, making time to pray and to listen to God, to study His Word together and ensure that we put him first in everything we do.

And what better gardener do we have tending us as we grow spiritually than Jesus himself! It is Jesus who is guiding us, teaching us, sometimes even pruning us. By remaining in Him, and by loving each other, we allow Him to accomplish His Kingdom here on earth.



Jesus is the Vine

Stevethomason.net

Sometimes a picture explaining a bible verse speaks more to us than the words,
Here's one we particularly like, we hope you find these explanations helpful.



Roly's wine

Do you like cooking? I do! But my husband, Roly feels very unsure about it. He burns everything! "It shouldn't have been so hot, I only turned away for a minute..." he says.

Well it turns out he loves chemistry, in particular, wine making. Over the last twenty years, he has nurtured, pruned, spoken to, even sung to the vine we have in our garden. He watches the grapes, picks them when really ripe and makes his own wine. Every year!

This is not without sacrifice (he has even trampled the grapes in a box to add extra flavour) and he repeatedly tastes, savours and assesses the chemical process to improve the desired flavour. It takes over half the kitchen for months on end. It is a creative process, it seems that every year the wine is different.

I am full of admiration of his persistence, his flexibility in the process and his patience to wait the next two years until the wine is judged ready to drink. He has been known to add all sorts of things to improve the flavour including sugar and brandy! With strong consequences!

But what I really admire about Roly's wine making is the way he includes all people around him into the discernment process, "Come in"... "Taste that."..., "What do you think?" As people come, they taste, chat, share, linger, drink some more and leave, surprisingly with a bottle for later. It turns out that he can cook excellently, after all!

Now his lockdown bread is another very heavy, dense story....

Cheers!!



Here are some interesting facts about wine



1. Grapes are the most planted fruit all over the world.
2. To quench their thirst, people drank wine instead of water centuries ago. During that time, water wasn't clean all the time, and natural fermentation, when the wine is made, could kill germs caused by typhi (salmonella) and cholera.
3. In the Middle Ages, churches and monasteries produced the bulk of wines available.
4. During the early Roman times, it was forbidden for women to drink wine. Wives who were caught by their husbands drinking wine could be killed if caught in the act.
5. Women are more susceptible to the effects of wine than men. It's partly due to biology, as women have fewer enzymes in the stomach lining required to break down alcohol.
6. In ancient Greece, the host of dinner would take the first sip of wine to assure that the wine served to guests wasn't poisoned. The act of courtesy was where the phrase "drinking to one's health" originated.
7. The largest bottle of wine is the "Nebuchadnezzar." It equates to 20 regular-sized bottles or around 15 litres.
8. The top three most significant producers of wine in the world are France, Spain, and Italy. The US (California) ranks fourth, followed by China in fifth place.
9. "Toasting" originated in ancient Rome when they retained Greek traditions. It's derived from dropping a piece of toasted bread in wine to soften bitter tastes.
10. Wine had been previously kept in goatskin bags. The Englishman Sir Kenelm Digby (1603-1665) invented the dark green wine bottle we all know today.

DAY TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND!

Yes you read that correctly! On a slightly damp July day, over 60 guests and 25 team gathered at Highfield Church to enjoy a day visit to New Zealand. They picked up their boarding pass on arrival and were given their day visa and were then able to enjoy a day filled with fun, activities, laughter and many conversations.



There were talks from people who had visited the Islands, displays of photos and gifts from New Zealand along with information on its

history and tourist scenes.

We had craft tables and Beetle Drive as well as space to just sit and read the daily newspaper.



Lunch was mutton stew and pavlova and plates came back

empty with everyone enjoying a hearty meal. After lunch more games and activities and of course The Haka, which was led wonderfully by Leila and everyone joined in from their chairs and if you ask anyone who attended what they enjoyed, they all say The Haka! All guests left with a goodie bag to remind them of their 'Holiday @ Home'.



We could not have done the day without our guests and of course our wonderful team of volunteers who made it all happen, thank you!

There were also day trips to New Zealand from Shirley and Lordshill which leaves us with the question, where should we go next year for our 'Holiday @ Home'?

WORDSEARCH

I am the true vine *John 15:1-7*

D	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	J	N	S	P	W	G
K	A	M	E	Y	V	Z	N	Y	E	C	I	C	O	N
Q	B	N	M	K	F	S	I	L	P	T	D	L	J	I
X	O	L	A	H	M	F	V	O	L	P	R	E	C	H
D	U	W	I	T	H	E	R	S	R	N	C	A	C	T
B	K	W	N	T	Q	T	C	U	Y	I	M	N	H	O
E	M	K	H	E	S	W	N	O	E	I	A	P	K	N
A	T	L	R	T	E	E	P	K	V	R	U	K	L	S
R	R	A	R	Y	S	O	L	X	B	M	U	R	Z	G
T	A	O	V	H	W	U	E	F	R	U	I	T	K	X
S	P	O	K	E	N	I	Y	A	G	E	O	R	B	L
W	A	Y	L	P	U	A	S	T	B	F	W	U	K	O
W	Q	I	A	M	F	J	K	H	C	P	L	E	M	S
U	R	Y	S	O	R	U	F	E	M	Z	H	T	E	Y
D	I	Z	K	O	R	L	F	R	O	N	W	O	R	D

APART

ASK

BEAR

BRANCH

CLEAN

DONE

FATHER

FRUIT

GARDENER

I AM

ITSELF

NOTHING

PRUNES

REMAIN

SPOKEN

TRUE

VINE

WISH

WITHERS

WORD

Can you decode these words which all come from the I AM sayings of Jesus which we have been looking at over the last few months?

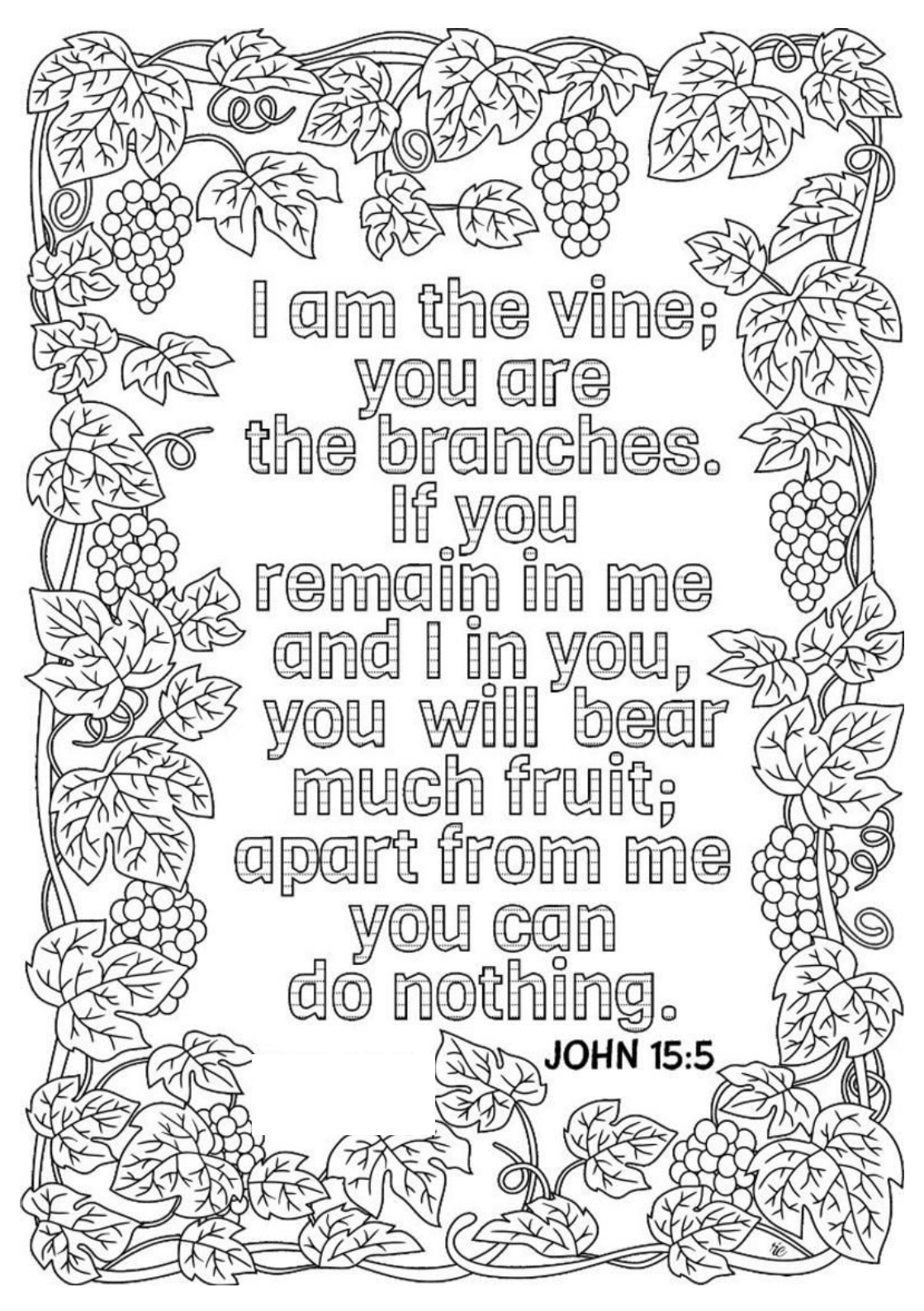
Here are your clues!

- 1) 10 5 19 21 19 * 19 1 9 4 (2 words)
- 2) 9 * 1 13 (2 words)
- 3) 20 8 5
- 4) 12 9 7 8 20
- 5) 20 18 21 5 * 22 9 14 5 (2 words)
- 6) 7 1 20 5
- 7) 2 18 5 1 4 * 15 6 * 12 9 6 5 (3 words)
- 8) 7 15 15 4 * 19 8 5 3 16 8 5 18 4
(2 words)
- 9) 18 5 19 21 18 18 5 20 9 15 14
- 10) 20 18 21 20 8
- 11) 12 9 6 5
- 12) 23 1 25
- 13) 25 15 21 * 1 18 5 (2 words)
- 14) 20 8 5 * 2 18 1 14 3 8 5 19 (2 words)
- 15) 2 5 1 18 * 13 21 3 8 * 6 18 21 9 20
(3 words)
- 16) 9 * 11 14 15 23 * 13 25 * 19 8 5 5 16
(4 words)
- 17) 1 2 9 4 5 * 9 14 * 13 5 (3 words)

A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5
F	6
G	7
H	8
I	9
J	10
K	11
L	12
M	13
N	14
O	15
P	16
Q	17
R	18
S	19
T	20
U	21
V	22
W	23
X	24
Y	25
Z	26

Answers

- 1) Jesus said
- 2) I AM
- 3) the
- 4) Light
- 5) True Vine
- 6) Gate
- 7) Bread of Life
- 8) Good Shepherd
- 9) Resurrection
- 10) Truth
- 11) Life
- 12) Way
- 13) You are
- 14) the branches
- 15) bear much fruit
- 16) I know My sheep
- 17) Abide 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.

JOHN 15:5

Rev Canon Erica Roberts

City Chaplain for Older People
Southampton
revericarob@gmail.com
07535 164014

Marion Hitchins

Anna Chaplain
for Older People
Southampton East
marionhitchins@yahoo.co.uk
07766 745503

Rev Margaret Hague

Anna Chaplain for Older People
Southampton West
margaret.hague@caraway.uk.com
07564 026471

*If you know of anyone who would like to receive a free monthly copy of
Vintage Adventure @ Home please contact us and we will happily add them
to our mailing list.*

caraway@caraway.uk.com

*07535 164014 (leave a message and we will return your call)
Monthly copies are also available to download on our website
caraway.uk.com*

Image credits in this pack
Contributors in the pack

Shutterstock | Pixabay | Freeimages | Goldencarers.com | Sermon4kids.com
Susan Wareham, Kathy Hyde, Ros Simpson, Jo Ladkin, Margaret Hague

Messy Vintage

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 