



Third Week of Lent • March 23-March 29 5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The True Vine

Devotional

Have you ever watched a gardener at work? They know exactly which branches need attention, which ones need to be cut back, and which ones are thriving. In the same way, God, our master gardener, tends to us with perfect knowledge and care. When Jesus calls Himself the true vine, He's inviting us into a relationship that's both intimate and life-giving. This isn't about religious performance or checking boxes; it's about being connected to the source of all life. Just as a branch naturally produces fruit when connected to a healthy vine, our spiritual growth flows from our connection to Jesus.

Bible Verse

"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." – John 15:1-2

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life are you trying to produce fruit through your own efforts rather than remaining connected to Jesus?

Quote

By grace, God has fulfilled for us his original purposes and hopes by providing Jesus the true vine.

Prayer

Father, help me recognize that You are the source of all true growth in my life. Teach me to stay connected to Jesus, the true vine, and trust in Your perfect care as the gardener. Amen.

Day 2: The Power of Abiding

Devotional

Think about your closest friendship. It didn't develop through occasional text messages or brief encounters – it grew through consistent, meaningful connection. Our relationship with Jesus works the same way. When He invites us to 'remain' or 'abide' in Him, He's calling us to stay consistently connected to Him. This isn't about perfection; it's about persistence. Just as a branch doesn't strain to produce fruit but simply stays connected to the vine, we don't need to struggle to produce spiritual fruit. Our role is to stay connected, and the fruit will come naturally.

Bible Verse

“No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” – John 15:5

Reflection Question

What daily practices help you stay connected to Jesus, and which ones might you need to develop or strengthen?

Quote

The fundamental fault of non fruit-bearing branches is not their failure to produce fruit. It's their failure to abide in Jesus.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting me to abide in You. Help me develop consistent practices that keep me connected to You throughout each day. Amen.

Day 3: Embracing the Pruning

Devotional

Growth often requires removal – just ask any gardener. While pruning might seem harsh, it's actually an act of love that leads to greater fruitfulness. When God prunes areas of our lives, He's not punishing us; He's preparing us for greater growth. This might mean removing distractions, reshaping priorities, or cutting away harmful habits. Though pruning can be uncomfortable, it's always purposeful. God sees the potential in us and knows exactly what needs to be trimmed away to help us flourish.

Bible Verse

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me as I also remain in you.” – John 15:3-4

Reflection Question

What areas of your life might God be pruning right now, and how can you embrace this process rather than resist it?

Quote

While pruning may seem intimidating, it's not to be feared.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give me the courage to embrace Your pruning work in my life. Help me trust Your loving wisdom as You shape me for greater fruitfulness. Amen.

Day 4: From Servants to Friends

Devotional

Imagine being invited into the inner circle of someone you deeply admire. That's exactly what Jesus does when He calls us friends rather than servants. This isn't just a casual friendship; it's an intimate relationship where He shares everything He knows about the Father with us. This elevation from servant to friend changes everything about how we relate to God. We're no longer just following orders; we're sharing in His purposes and plans. This friendship is sealed with the greatest expression of love possible – Jesus laying down His life for us.

Bible Verse

“No longer do I call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I call you my friends.” – John 15:15

Reflection Question

How does seeing yourself as Jesus's friend rather than just His servant change how you approach your relationship with Him?

Quote

Jesus specifically identifies the basis of his relationship with us is that he wants everything that he knows about the Father to be known by us.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for calling me Your friend. Help me embrace the depth and intimacy of this relationship, and teach me to walk in the confidence of being Your friend. Amen.

Day 5: Dancing With Jesus

Devotional

Sometimes we can make our relationship with God so complicated. We turn it into a list of dos and don'ts, forgetting that at its heart, it's a love relationship. God isn't looking for perfect performance; He's inviting us to dance with Him. Just as dancing requires both following and flowing with your partner, our relationship with God is about moving in harmony with His Spirit. It's about joy, not duty; freedom, not restriction. When we grasp this truth, our spiritual life becomes less about striving and more about enjoying His presence.

Bible Verse

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love.” – John 15:9

Reflection Question

In what ways have you made your relationship with God mechanical, and how can you return to the joy of simply being with Him?

Quote

Would you just dance with me? You've made it so mechanical. You think that this is all what ministry and what a relationship with me is about. Can we just dance?

Prayer

Father, thank You for inviting me to dance with You. Help me let go of rigid religiosity and embrace the joy of moving in rhythm with Your Spirit. Amen.