

## Before the Week Begins: Abiding in the Vine as Educators

As we step into the eve of Teacher Appreciation Week, this is a meaningful moment to pause and reflect, not only on what we do as educators but also on who we are becoming in Christ. In a week set aside to honor teachers, John 15 reminds us that true fruitfulness doesn't come from striving harder. Fruitfulness comes from staying connected to Jesus. Before the celebrations and encouragement begin, take a few quiet moments to center your heart in Him and allow His Word to shape your perspective for the week ahead.

[Read John 15:1-2.](#)

**How is God described in verse 1? How does this shape or calm any fear you may be carrying as you enter this week?**

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples in the upper room, knowing the cross was near. Fear and uncertainty were just ahead for those He loved deeply. However, His final "I AM" statement was not one of warning but of encouragement. Though His physical presence would soon be gone, He would continue to nourish, sustain, and enable them to live fruitful lives. In verse 2, Jesus describes fruitfulness as a process. **What are the three stages of fruitfulness shown in this verse?**

**Where do you see yourself right now in that progression? Are you struggling to bear fruit, beginning to see some fruit, or growing into greater fruitfulness?**

**Important Note:** The Greek verb translated "removes" can also mean "takes away" or "lifts up." In other words, God does not discard us; He lovingly lifts us up, clears away what hinders us, and prunes our lives so that we can grow and bear even more spiritual fruit.

[Read John 15:4-5.](#)

Verse 4 of the Amplified version reads, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you." Abiding or remaining implies an intimate, faith-based relationship in which Jesus Christ alone is the source of life. In other words, He is our Lord, and nothing will work properly if we don't stay connected and invite Him into everything. Without the vital union with Christ that salvation provides, there can be no spiritual life or productivity. **What does it look like for you to "abide" or "remain" in Christ?**

**Is there an area of your life where you long to see more spiritual fruit? Name it and ask God to guide your steps and grow that fruit in you.**

As Teacher Appreciation Week begins, may you be reminded that your worth and fruitfulness are not measured by recognition, effort, or outcomes but by your connection to Christ. He is the true Vine, and He is at work in you even during seasons when you feel unseen. Let this week not only be a time of encouragement from others but also a sacred reminder that God is continually growing and shaping your life. Stay close to Him, and spiritual fruit will flow from that connection.

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*Lord, thank You for being the true source of life and fruitfulness. Help me to remain in You today—in my thoughts, in my words, and in my actions. Show me areas where You are growing me, and give me a willing heart as You shape and prune my life. I don't want to strive in my own strength. I want to stay connected to You. Produce in me the fruit that reflects who You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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