



# DISCIPLED

## WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

John 15:1-11 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." (ESV)

### What does the word Disciple mean?

Jesus talked about what it meant to be one of his disciples. He instructed his disciples to make more disciples. But what does the word mean? The biblical word "disciple" is someone who adheres to the teachings of another. It is a follower or a learner. It refers to someone who takes up the ways of someone else. Applied to Jesus, a disciple is someone who learns from him to live like him — someone who, because of God's awakening grace, conforms his or her words and ways to the words and ways of Jesus.

- "I am the bread of life." (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51) As bread sustains physical life, so Christ offers and sustains spiritual life.
- "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12) To a world lost in darkness, Christ offers Himself as a guide.
- "I am the door of the sheep." (John 10:7,9) Jesus protects His followers as shepherds protect their flocks from predators.
- "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25) Death is not the final word for those in Christ.
- "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11, 14) Jesus is committed to caring and watching over those who are His.
- "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) Jesus is the source of all truth and knowledge about God.
- "I am the true vine." (John 15:1, 5) By attached ourselves to Christ, we enable His life to flow in and through us. Then we cannot help but bear fruit that will honor the Father.

### "ABIDE IN ME"

A branch stays connected to her tree  
A disciple stays connected to Jesus

### "KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS"

A branch receives life from her tree  
A disciple learns how to live from Jesus