



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 15:1-9 Study Hints for Discussion

[*Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [*Class Preparation Guide*](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [*Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout*](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What is the relationship between the Father and the Son and Jesus and His followers as Jesus described it in these verses?

The Father is the Vinegrower. The Son is the True Vine (not a vine, but the True Vine). Jesus is the Son the Father sent into the world. Jesus’ followers are the branches.

2. What do the Father, Jesus, and His followers do?

The Father removes and prunes the branches on the true vine. The Son gives nourishment and growth to the branches that remain on the vine. The branches that remain on the vine bear fruit. If a branch does not bear fruit; then the Father removes the branch from the vine. If a branch bears fruit; then the Father prunes it so it will bear more fruit.

3. What can branches do if they do not remain in the vine?

Nothing.

4. What happens to branches that do not remain in the vine?

Since they remain attached to the vine but do not remain in the vine so as to receive nourishment from the vine, they are removed from the vine, thrown away, wither, and are burned. Until they are removed from the vine, they hinder the living branches that remain attached to the vine from bearing as much fruit as the vinegrower wants grown.

5. What did Jesus say about the consequences of abiding or remaining in the vine and what did He mean?

Jesus' followers choose to abide or remain in Him, remain attached to Him, so they can receive spiritual nourishment from Him. They are to receive, believe, and act according to His words. They are to abide or remain in His love. Then, Jesus will answer their prayers. They will become Jesus' disciples. Jesus' disciples will bear fruit and the Father will be glorified.

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