

**Title:** Branch Out

**Text:** John 15:1-6

**Target:** The life you have always wanted is found in staying connected to Jesus, drawing from His strength, and allowing His life to flow through you.

- I. **The Picture of the Vine:** *"I am the **true** vine, and my Father is the vinedresser."* (Vs. 1)
  - A. **Reminder of Rescue:** (Psalm 80:8-9)
  - B. **Symbol of Blessing:** (Micah 4:4)
  - C. **Call to Bear Fruit:** (Isaiah 5:7)
  - D. **Warning of Judgement:** (Ezekiel 15:1-8)
  - E. **Radical Claim:** Jesus is all the above!

- II. **The Pruning of the Vine:** *"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."* (Vs. 2)

**A. To Lift Up: "Takes Away"**

1. Greek Word: "Airo"
2. To Remove it from the Dirt
3. To Position for Growth

\*If you feel like you're going through a season of "taking away," it's not punishment; it's preparation!

**B. To Cut Away: "Prunes"**

1. To Remove what Hinders
2. To Shape for the Future
3. To Make Room for the Greater

\*If you feel like you are going through a season of "pruning," it's not to prevent you, but to promote you!

- III. **The Provision of the Vine:** *"**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."* (Vs. 4)

**A. Rooted in Relationship: "Abide"**

1. Already Connected
2. Could be Grafted: (Romans 11)

**B. Produces Fruitfulness:** *"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**."* (Vs. 5)

1. Identity in Christ: (Gal. 6:14)
2. Shaped by Scripture: (Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Constant in Prayer: (1 Thess. 5:17)
4. Obedient to Christ: (John 15:10)
5. Filled with the Spirit: (Gal. 5:22-23)
6. Walks in Community: (Hebrews 10:25)
7. Kingdom Minded: (Matthew 6:33)

- IV. **The Plea of the Vine:** *"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."* (Vs. 6)

**Takeaway:** Your connection is the reflection of your direction.