



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Resurrection Hope Bears Fruit

*John 15:1-8*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

1. Why does Jesus say he is the true vine? Consult Isaiah 5:1-7. What is the contrast between the true vine and the other vine the Bible speaks of?
2. Pruning involves cutting and snipping. How is the work of a gardener pruning vines like the work of God the Father pruning his children?

3. When Jesus says, "You are already clean," he is making a pun, since the word for "pruning" and the word "clean" sound very similar in Greek and the verb for "pruning" can also mean "cleaning". When did you first become "pruned" by the word?
4. What promises to we need to remember when God's work of pruning in our lives feels painful and hard?
5. Agree or Disagree: When unbelievers donate to charity or help in the community, they are doing good works.
6. In this section, Jesus masterfully weaves law truths and gospel truths together. Practice distinguishing law and gospel by making a list of each.
  - a. Law
    - 
    - 
    -
  - b. Gospel
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7. Agree or Disagree: A Christian can have living faith without any good works.
8. Agree or Disagree: Since faith without deeds is dead, good works are necessary for salvation.
9. The disciples fell hard. After Jesus rose, he picks them up and restored them in the vine again. What comfort does this give you when you fail miserably in your Christian life?