

# Life Verses

## Bearing the Fruit of Love

John 15:13

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

### MAIN IDEAS

- Pruning from the Gardener
- Abiding in the Vine
- Bearing Fruit in the Branches
  - Love Sacrifices
  - Love Obeys
  - Love is Clear
  - Love is Given

Read John 15:1-2 and Hebrews 12:4-6. Why does God prune us? What benefit is pruning?

How do hard times make us better, according to James 1:2-4?

The psalmist hid God's word in his heart to keep from sinning (Psalm 119:11). What role does God's word have in pruning us?

How do we abide in Christ? See: 1 John 2:23-24, 2 John 8-9, Revelation 3:20.

What examples have you seen of love sacrificing, obeying, being clear, or giving? Why does love behave this way?

In Luke 7:47, what does Jesus say is the relationship between love and forgiveness?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

How keenly do you feel God's forgiveness in your own life? How strongly do you feel love for God? Are the two feelings at similar levels?

What is the natural response to God's love, according to 1 John 4:19-21?

How good are you at loving other people? Do you sacrifice, obey, and give?

Would you say God's word abides in you? Why or why not?

How else do you abide in Christ?

When has God pruned you? How did he do it?

Choose a passage from the study and hide it in your heart this week.

Pray:

- For a deeper appreciation of the forgiveness he extends to you.
- Thank Him for the life-giving, fruit-bearing connection you can have with Him.
- For encouragement in times of pruning.
- For help in freely loving Him and others with sacrifice, obedience, and clarity.

## REPRODUCE

Consider ways to love that involve sacrifice, obedience, being clear, and giving. Show someone the love of Christ in you this week.

When you have gone through trials, what has encouraged you? Extend this encouragement to someone else going through a tough time.

*Freely you have received, freely give.*

—Matthew 10:8b

## KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- John 15:1-16
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Isaiah 64:6
- Philippians 2:5-8
- Romans 5:19
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- John 3:16-17

Additional verse from the study:

- Hebrews 12:4-6
- James 1:2-4
- Psalm 119:11
- 1 John 2:23-24
- 2 John 8-9
- Revelation 3:20
- Luke 7:47
- 1 John 4:19-21
- Matthew 10:8