



# All Christians' Fellowship International

## INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

**TOPIC:** The Secret of Remaining

**TEXT:** John 15:1-11

**Instructions** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** The final weekend before Christmas is not the time to visit a shopping mall. If you are fortunate enough to find a parking spot, the press of people inside makes shopping almost impossible. One mother was giving final instructions to her young son before plunging into the crowd: "Stay close to me and hold my hand all the time. We won't get separated if we hold on to each other." As Jesus prepared his disciples to face life without his visible presence, he impressed on them the importance of staying close to him spiritually. He said, "Remain in me." If you've ever longed to understand the secret of spiritual growth, you will find it in Jesus' words to us in John 15.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt far from Christ since becoming a Christian? What circumstances made you feel that way?
2. Read John 15:1-11. Jesus' instruction to his disciples in this passage revolve around three symbols - the vines, the gardener, and the branches. What is Jesus trying to communicate by calling himself the true vine?
3. What is the significance of calling his disciples branches?
4. Instead of commanding us to bear fruit, why is Jesus' only command "Remain in me" (v.4)?
5. What does it mean to remain in Christ?
6. The fruit produced by the remaining branch is often viewed as a reference to new converts. But branches produce grapes, not other branches. What other possible meanings are there for fruit?
7. The Father's ministry as the gardener is to "cut off every branch that bears no fruit" (v. 2). What do you think that means?
8. The Father prunes fruitful branches to make them more fruitful (v. 2). Describe what you imagine could be the experience of being pruned by the father. What could be the result?

9. What spiritual benefits result from remaining in Christ (v. 7-11)?

10. There are three categories of branches described in this passage-the bearing no fruit, those bearing some fruit, and those bearing much fruit. which category would you place yourself and your church? – Give reasons.

11. If one is not bearing much fruit, what is Jesus' counsel to such people in these verses?