

LESSON 11

A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

JOHN 14:15—17:26



1 Be very quiet for a moment or two. Listen carefully and write down everything you hear.

2 What's the difference between casual and careful listening? Who listens carefully to you?



Read John 14:15—17:26 and the following notes:

☐ 14:16 ☐ 14:17ff ☐ 15:1ff ☐ 15:2, 3 ☐ 15:5, 6 ☐ 15:5–8 ☐ 15:16
☐ 15:26 ☐ 16:1–16 ☐ 17:1ff ☐ 17:11 ☐ 17:20

3 What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

4 What does remaining in Jesus mean? What are the results of remaining in him?

5 What kinds of problems and difficulties does Jesus predict for his followers?

6 What resources does Jesus offer us in the face of adversity?



7 What comes to your mind when you hear the word *counselor*? In what ways is the Holy Spirit our Counselor and Comforter?

8 How is prayer a resource?

9 What are the results of praying in Jesus' name?

Jesus expressed concern for his disciples and encouraged them the night before he was arrested and crucified. His parting words placed strong emphasis on the close relationship offered to everyone who would follow him. Through the work of the Holy Spirit (our Counselor) and our obedience, we can live close to God in a relationship that is compared to the living unity of a grapevine and its branches. Through prayer each one of us is able to approach God directly and tell him the deepest, innermost thoughts of our heart. With great love and understanding, God answers when we pray in the name of Jesus.



10 What can we do to stay close to Jesus, like a branch to the vine?

11 What does the Holy Spirit do to nurture our vine-branch relationship with Jesus?

12 In what ways does God “prune” a fruitful believer? What kind of pruning experiences have you had over the past few months?

13 What new insights has the Holy Spirit revealed to you about God in the past few months? How have those insights affected the way you live?

14 What can you do this week to improve your relationship with Christ?



15 What one request will you make in prayer this week, expecting God to answer?

A What evidence for Jesus' deity does John appeal to in these verses?

B What kind of peace does the world offer us? How does God's peace differ?

C What does it mean to "produce much fruit" for Christ (15:5)? How can we produce fruit for him?

D How has God shown love for you? How can you love others as he has loved you?

E What are the differences between being someone's servant and being his or her friend? What are the advantages of being God's friend?

F What difference does it make to you that Jesus chose you?

G Why would the world hate Jesus' followers? In what ways have you experienced this hatred? How do the world's values differ from yours?

H How is prayer like a battleground? How should you improve your prayer life?

I How can Christians have joy?

J How can a person receive eternal life?

K Why does Jesus want his followers to be in the world? How can we change the world for him?

L In what ways can believers be "one" (17:21)?

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