

**WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS?** During this series, we will explore how other faiths view Jesus Christ in light of our own expressions of faith in Him as Savior and Lord. This week we will study **John 15:1-8** with Dr. Baucom as he asks the question, ***Who Do the Buddhists Say He Is?***

1. Have you ever found yourself tempted to do something that you knew was wrong? How easy is it to give in to temptation? What ways have you used in the past to guard yourself from giving in?
2. **Read and reflect on John 15:1-8.** Sit and reflect with this passage for about ten minutes. **Reread it again** aloud, listening carefully to each word.
  - What does this allegory of the vine and the branches reveal to you about your relationship with
    - God the Father?
    - Jesus?
    - The Holy Spirit?
3. Buddhists place emphasis on individuals' efforts to live the "middle way" -- through following the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. Reflect on what Jesus tells us about how to experience life with God In **John 15:1-8**. What should our response be?
4. **Read John 6:53-58**, looking for how Jesus says we are to *abide* in Him.
5. What do the following verses reveal to us about the life of one who *abides* in Jesus? How shall this affect our lives?
  - I John 2:6
  - I John 3:6
  - I John 3:24
  - I John 4: 15,16
6. In **John 14:16** who does Jesus send to help us *abide*, *remain*, *live* in Him?

7. What does **John 15:4** teach us about how fruit is brought forth in our lives? How do we need to relate to Jesus?
8. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** How does Paul describe the fruit the Spirit brings?
9. In the following passages, God uses the vine allegory. What can we learn about our relationship with God through these passages?
  - Psalm 80:8-16
  - Jeremiah 2:21
  - Ezekiel 15:1-8
  - Isaiah 5:1-7
10. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.**
  - Who provides for us when we are confronted by temptation?
  - In light of John 15, what might be our 'way of escape'?
11. **Read 2 Peter 2:1-10.**
  - In verse 9, who does Peter say will rescue the godly from temptation?
  - How does this differ from what Buddha taught his followers?
12. In **John 15:8**, Jesus tells us how we "prove to be" his disciples and glorify God.
  - What does he say?
  - Reflect on the fruit your life is bearing right now.
  - Any fruit that needs to be pruned?

What have you learned about the nature and character of Christ this week through your study of **John 15:1-8**? Share with your group who you say Jesus is. Spend time praying that God will continue to reveal Christ to you in new and growing ways.