

PREPARATION FOR MISSION  
**KITCHEN**



*household of*  
**PRAYER**

**Welcome to the kitchen, the place where food is prepared and a space for cleaning and clearing up.**

However, here are some quotes that describe the kitchen in other ways:

**‘The kitchen is where you put all the ingredients together. No matter what you do in life, you have to have a plan and put it together.’ - Yo Gotti**

**Another person said, ‘If you can organise your kitchen, you can organise your life.’  
- Louis Parrish**

**Yet another said, ‘The kitchen is the heart of the home.’**

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In mission, preparing or equipping ourselves is really important. Read this familiar passage from **John 15:1-8** (MSG paraphrase):

## The Vine and the Branches

*'I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.*

*'Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.*

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*'I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is - when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.'*

Jesus identifies himself as the true vine, emphasising that he is the source of spiritual life and nourishment. The process of pruning, which involves cutting away unproductive branches, symbolises God's discipline and care to help believers grow and bear more fruit. The passage underscores the necessity of remaining

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connected to Jesus to bear fruit. Without him, we can do nothing of spiritual significance. This relationship between Jesus and believers is described as intimate and organic, highlighting closeness and interdependence.

Those who do not remain in Jesus are likened to dead branches that are gathered and burned, indicating the importance of staying connected to him. But when believers remain in Jesus and his words remain in them, their prayers align with God's will and are answered. Bearing fruit and maturing as disciples glorifies God and demonstrates his work in our lives.

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## *Some Questions to Ponder*

1. What does it mean to be 'pruned' by God? How have you experienced this in your life?
2. How can you ensure that you remain connected to Jesus, the true vine, in your daily life?
3. What kind of 'fruit' is Jesus referring to? How can you bear more of it?
4. What are the consequences of being separated from Jesus? How can you avoid this separation?

Do any of these questions resonate with you or prompt further thoughts? Bring these to God in prayer now.

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## *Final Prayer*

**Heavenly Father,**

We come before you with grateful hearts, acknowledging that you are the gardener who tends to our lives with care and purpose.

Thank you for sending Jesus, the true vine, through whom we receive life and nourishment.

Lord Jesus, we desire to remain in you, to make our home in you as you make your home in us. Help us to stay connected to you, knowing that apart from you we can do nothing.

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Teach us to live in the unforced rhythms of grace, bearing fruit that glorifies your name.

Prune us, Lord, so that we may become even more fruitful. Remove anything in our lives that hinders our growth, and draw us closer to you. May your words dwell richly in us, guiding our thoughts, actions and decisions.

We pray for an intimate and organic relationship with you, where our connection is deep and life-giving.

As we remain in you, may we experience the abundant harvest you promise, producing fruit that reflects your love, joy, peace and goodness.

Father, we trust in your promise that you will listen to and act upon whatever we

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ask in alignment with your will. Help us to align our desires with yours, seeking your Kingdom and righteousness above all else.

Thank you for the assurance that when we mature as your disciples, we bring glory to you and reveal your character to the world.

Empower us to live out our faith boldly and to be a light in our communities.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

**Amen.**

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