

Dear Servants in our Lord's Kingdom,

At this time last year, we sent out a Bible study to help prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference. This originated from growing concerns expressed regarding how we as Christ's servants conduct ourselves at this conference together. The concerns had become great enough that we felt compelled to bring them to you.

We received much positive feedback from the study presented, and also noted a measureable increase in the professionalism displayed. We want this to continue, and even improve all the more! Therefore, we're asking all faculties to prepare for the conference by reflecting together on the below discussion questions. Principals, we specifically ask you to lead in this endeavor. The goals of this conversation, as well as our conference, are to glorify Christ and to faithfully carry out the work Christ has called us to do. It is our prayer that this Bible study helps us to do exactly this!

The theme for our conference is "Remain in Me." The first part of this study will concentrate on this area of Scripture as it reminds us to remain in Jesus, the True Vine. The second part will refresh us on the expectations for each and every one of us at this year's conference.

May you take the words in this note and the motivations behind it with much love being shared between brothers and sisters in Christ. May Jesus bless your conversations and our upcoming conference, as well as your ministries and lives!

Your fellow servants in Christ,  
The WLSTC Program Committee

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## Scripture & Discussion

### John 15:1-17

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while **every branch that does bear fruit he prunes** so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 **Remain in me, as I also remain in you.** No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you **bear fruit** unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and **my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish**, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that **your joy may be complete.** 12 My command is this: **Love each other** as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I

chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—**fruit that will last**—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

1. Verses 1-4
  - a. Why is pruning so beneficial?
  - b. How does God prune us?
  - c. What does it mean to remain in Him the same way he remains in us?
  - d. What kind of fruit do we bear as teachers?
2. Verses 5-8
  - a. How can we remain in the "vine" during the busy lives in which we live?
  - b. List ways His words can "remain" in us.
  - c. For what do we ask?
3. Verses 9-17
  - a. How is our joy "complete"?
  - b. In what ways can we show love for each other in our positions on the faculty?
  - c. What kind of lasting fruit do we produce in our roles as teachers?

## I Corinthians 10:31b - "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Our WLSTC committee encourages these goals for our October conference: "To glorify Christ and to faithfully carry out the work He has called us to do."

1. How does our conference help us to meet these goals?
2. How do you see this "giving glory to God" taking place at our conference?
3. How is this not happening?

## I Corinthians 4:1-2 - "Men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

1. In our own classrooms, what level of participation and attention do we expect of our students as we are presenting to them?
2. What level of participation and attention can we rightly expect of each other at the conference?
3. How else might we prove faithful at our upcoming conference?