

#5: Resurrection and the Life - John 11:25 (Alternate scriptures: John 1:4, Galatians 2:20, 1 John 5:11-12, Colossians 3:4)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

I Am...Jesus #5: Resurrection and the Life - John 11:25

I love this one! The purpose for Jesus coming to earth: to be the Resurrection and the Life. To be OUR Resurrection and Life. Through belief in Him we can have eternal life in heaven.

For the art journaling portion, we are taking the word LIFE and each letter has a little something special:

L - Let the bells ring out!

In centuries past, churches were the center of life in villages. They had bell towers. When there was news that needed to be shared with the community, the bells would ring out. What good news we have to share! Christ is our Resurrection - He has conquered death and its hold on us because of sin. We have freedom and eternal life in Him.

In Him, we will rise to eternal life. We are co-heirs with Christ, living with Him in glory.

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:4

I - In Him, Life and Light

Because of Jesus, we can step out of the darkness of sin and into the Light. It is one of the reasons we light candles and have Christmas lights on everything that will stand still long enough for us to string them up.

In the darkness of winter, the light has come to our souls. The light dispels the darkness that has been creeping in. It is the Life that Jesus brings that brings Light to our lives.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:4

F - Follow the Good Shepherd

The most iconic Christmas candy has to be the candy cane! The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff symbolizing that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. The red and white stripes show the purity and holiness of Jesus and the blood of Christ that paid for our sins. This simple candy can remind us of our testimony: that through His blood, we can be clothed in the righteousness and holiness of Jesus.

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12

E - Eagerly prepare for His coming

The ornaments hanging on this letter remind us to prepare not just our homes but also our hearts for celebration of the birth of Christ. When we see the ornaments on Christmas trees, let's remember that Jesus is our Life! Our daily life is rooted in Him.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Action Step:

As we see these Christmas icons around us this season, let's use them as reminders to not only thank God for the Resurrection and the Life we have in Jesus but also to share that good news with someone we see today -we can smile and say, "Merry Christmas! Jesus loves you!"

Come to the Facebook group @DevoinAction (<https://www.facebook.com/devoinaction>) and share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under **#5: Resurrection and the Life** - John 11:25 or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

THEN, comment on someone else's post to encourage and build them up in the Lord! Build a bridge today!

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You so much for providing eternal Life for us through Jesus! You have given us Resurrection through His triumph over death. Remind us to share the true good news of Christmas with others this season. Jesus' name, amen.

Don't miss out on all the freebies!

If you don't have access yet to the Resource Library, find out how to get free access [HERE!](#)

#6: The Way, the Truth, and the Life - John 14:6 (Alternate scriptures: Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 10:29, Psalm 18:30, 2 Samuel 22:31, Isaiah 26:8)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

I Am...Jesus #6: The Way, the Truth, The Life - John 14:6

As a part of the Star Wars franchise, there is a streaming tv show called The Mandalorian. In it, there is a line that has become famous: *This is the way*. It doesn't refer to a path to a physical place. It encompasses much more than that. The Way is a way to live your life, a code you live by - everything else fits into that framework.

Jesus is like that - believing in Him does not just give us a path to heaven. Jesus is a framework for everything else in our lives. Here at Devotion in Action, I consistently come back to the importance of small action steps each day that translate into a Christ-centered life.

"This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."
Psalm 18:30

This is the Way

Jesus is Truth incarnate - His ways are always right. We need to follow His Way, live in His Truth, and form our lives around His Life in us. That can be a little overwhelming, but the good thing is that we don't have to do it alone. We can pray and ask for help.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"
Psalm 139:23-24

God can lead us in His way.

His Way

How do we live our lives in the Way that Jesus embodies? Well, the first step is what you are doing right now - we get into the Word of God and learn more about Him. We take refuge in God and His presence.

"The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers."
Proverbs 10:29

When we embrace forming our lives around the Way that Jesus modeled for us, we find the Life that He promises. Not just eternal life in heaven, but abundant life here on earth. It doesn't mean everything is perfect, but in the imperfection, we have purpose. Purpose to share the good news of Jesus with those around us.

Action Step:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Let's step into the purpose of living in The Way, The Truth and The Life, embracing knowing God more and more each day and sharing this Way with those around us. Who can you tell today that Jesus loves them?

Come over to the Facebook group @DevolnAction (<https://www.facebook.com/devoinaction>) and share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under **#6: The Way, the Truth, and the Life - John 14:6** or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

THEN, comment on someone else's post to encourage and build them up in the Lord! Let's not just share our art but also the heart of what God is speaking to us with one another.

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank You for sending Jesus to be the framework for our lives. Help us to live everyday in The Way, The Truth, and The Life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Don't miss out on all the freebies!

If you don't have access yet to the Resource Library, find out how to get free access [HERE!](#)

#7: True Vine - John 15:4-5 (Alternate scriptures: Ephesians 4:13-15, 2 Peter 3:18, Isaiah 53:2, Isaiah 11:1)

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

I Am...Jesus #7: True Vine - John 15:4-5

Reading this scripture at Christmastime this year brought to mind the strands of garland strung up around our home. Lush vines and branches intertwined and connected. Live garlands show perfectly this principle. They are lovely when freshly cut, but by the end of the season, because they are disconnected from the root system, they wither and die.

To stay fruitful and living, the plants must stay connected to the vine that extends into the root system, drawing in nutrients and water. Likewise, we have to stay connected to Jesus, the True Vine, in order to thrive and bear fruit,

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

Growing

Like plants, a sign of our connection to the Vine is that we are growing and maturing,

“until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”
Ephesians 4:13-15

When we stay connected to Jesus, our True Vine, we are not moved easily from the truth. We use words of truth through the lens of love. We are growing more and more like Jesus each day.

Prophecies

The contemporaries of Jesus would have not only understood this concept from the perspective of gardening and vineyard keeping. They would have heard the echoes of prophecies long ago about the coming Messiah

“For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.”
Isaiah 53:2

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."
Isaiah 11:1

Practical Application

So, how do we "abide" in the True Vine? I mean, practically, daily, what are the steps we take to actually do this? There are two main ways that we stay connected to the Root of Jesse, the True Vine.

1. Spend time in His Word - Congratulations! You are doing that now! Spending time listening to, reading, thinking about, creating in the Word of God helps us make it a part of ourselves, mold the pattern of our lives to its Truth, and grow up so that we are not easily moved from it.
2. Spend time in Prayer - Prayer is a really interesting thing. Simply put, it is communication with God. However, some of us get stuck in just talking at God. Growing in the True Vine, we not only share our feelings, needs, worries, and joys with Jesus but also listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Sitting in silence and listening does not come naturally in today's culture. I know I struggle with forcing myself to not be "doing something" or checking off my to do list. It is harder but valuable.

Action Step:

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."
2 Peter 3:18

If you are like me and the part of this that you struggle with is deepening your prayer life, I have some tips for easing into it that have helped me.

-Turn on some worship music, especially some that includes instrumental sections, providing time for reflection and listening. You can find "open worship" or "instrumental worship" videos on YouTube.

Worship and gratitude ushers our hearts into the presence of God and tune our ears to His voice.

-Use your art as a listening tool. I do this in two ways. When praying about something, God will sometimes bring a picture to my mind that is connected to scripture. It is like seeing His answer. Draw it and think about how it speaks to your situation. Also, use the time painting or coloring in your Bible or journal to ask God to speak to you and listen for His voice. It might be scriptures that pop into your mind or a quote from a sermon you have heard or just an impression like a reassurance that He loves You. Lean into His voice. The more you spend time with Him the more you will recognize it.

Try one today - abide in Him deeper each day!

Come on over to the Facebook group @DevoinAction (<https://www.facebook.com/devoinaction>) and share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under **Day 7: Surrendering the Right to be Right - Open Hands** (Philippians 2:3) or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

THEN, comment on someone else's post to encourage and build them up in the Lord! Let's not just share our art but also the heart of what God is speaking to us with one another.

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank You for being our True Vine, staying connected to us everyday. Help us to entwine our lives in You daily through Your Word and prayer. Deepen our connection as we grow up in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Don't miss out on all the freebies!

For access to the free printables to use in Bible art journaling, click here:

<https://www.devotioninaction.com/resourcelibrary/>

If you don't have access yet to the Resource Library, find out how to get free access [HERE!](#)

#8: Merry Christmas! - Luke 2:1-19 (Alternate scriptures: Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:6-7, Genesis 12:3, Matthew 1:22-23, Matthew 2:1, John 1:1)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

#8: Merry Christmas! - Luke 2:1-19

Our Christmas tradition includes that before a gift is opened, we celebrate the best GIFT from heaven - Jesus - by reading the Christmas story from Luke 2. Taking a moment to bring our hearts to focus on the reason for the holiday helps us stay connected to Him.

Foretold

This gift from heaven was prophesied centuries before His coming, weaving the story of History in a beautiful tapestry of redemption.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."
Micah 5:2

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."
Isaiah 9:6-7

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
Genesis 12:3

Miraculous Specificity

Then, at the exact time, when all the foretold elements came together in miraculous specificity, Jesus was born.

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)."
Matthew 1:22-23

All of this so that we could be saved. All of this so that we could know Jesus. Our Bread of Life.. Our Light of the World. Our Door of the Sheep. Our Good Shepherd. Our Resurrection and our Life. Our Way, Truth, and Life. Our True Vine. What a Gift!

Action Step:

This may be a really busy day, but take a moment to thank God for the gift of Jesus and Who He is in the midst of holiday chaos. Let the signs and sounds of this day remind Who He is. Have a very merry Christmas!

Come to the Facebook group @DevoinAction (<https://www.facebook.com/devoinaction>) and share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under **Day 8: Peace Costs Something - The Dove and the Thorn** (Isaiah 53:5) post or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

THEN, comment on someone else's post to encourage and build them up in the Lord! Let's not just share our art but also the heart of what God is speaking to us with one another.

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank you so much for Jesus! He is the GIFT this season. He is so much to us. Help us to celebrate and stay connected to Him everyday.. In Jesus' name, amen.

Don't miss out on all the freebies!

For access to the free printables to use in Bible art journaling, click here:

<https://www.devotioninaction.com/resourcelibrary/>

If you don't have access yet to the Resource Library, find out how to get free access [HERE!](#)