



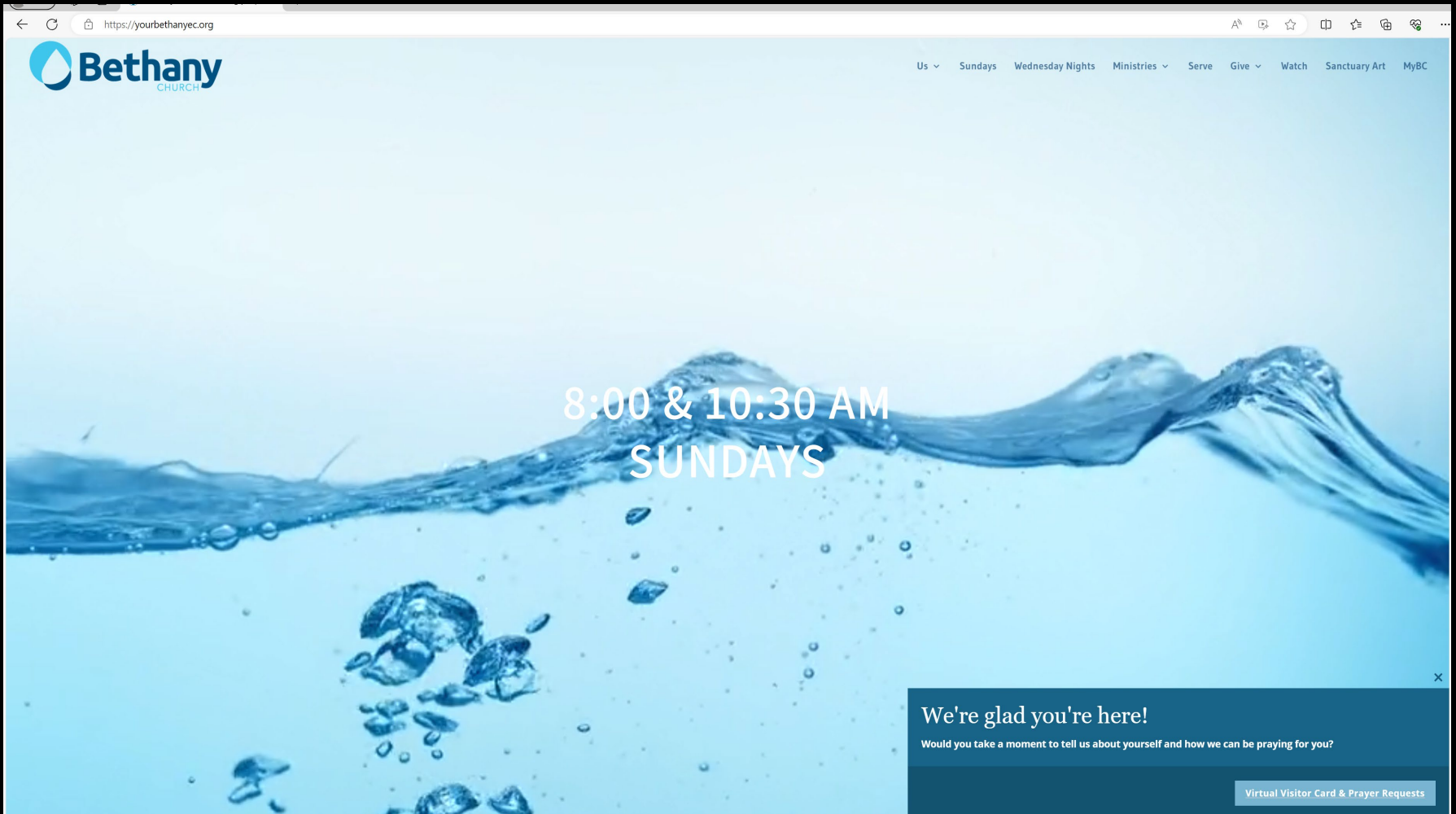
*The Divine Blueprint for
Spiritual Growth (and Life)
John 15:1 - 6*



1. Jesus's bold claim to be the "true vine" sets him apart from all other "vines." Jesus is the opposite of what is fictitious, counterfeit, or pretended.

A. True vine – Only one among other false vines. Jn. 15:1

B. His promise is real life. John 1:4, Isaiah 55:1-2



Rev 22:17 “And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”



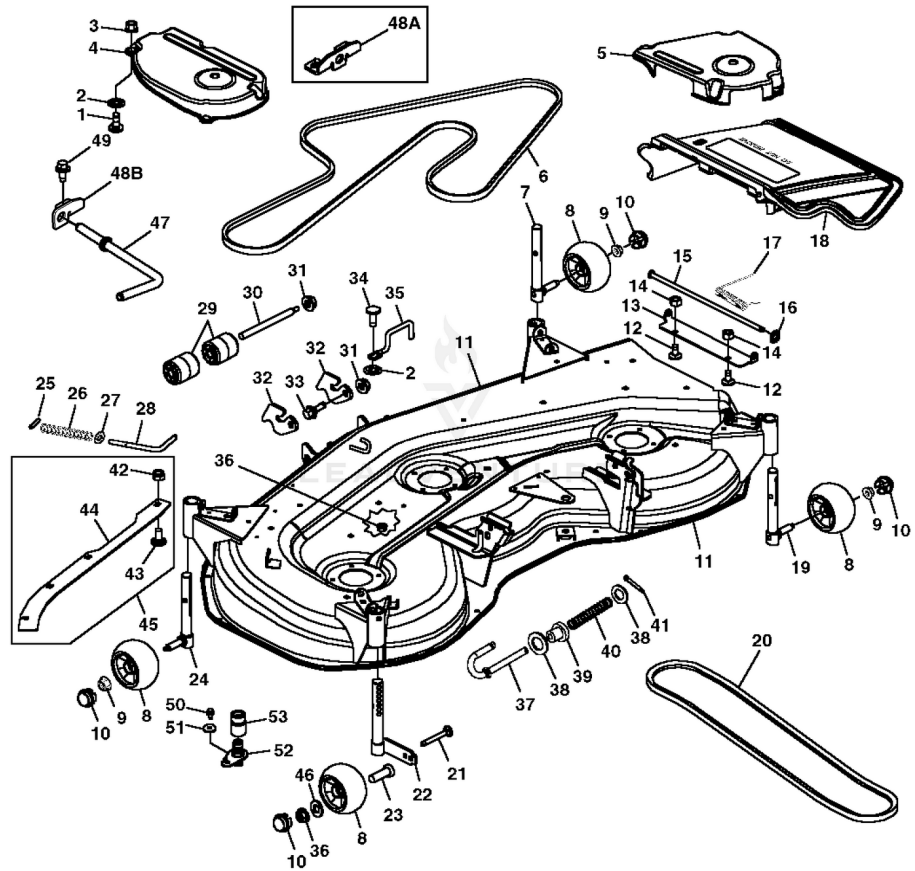
2. John 15 is a “Divine Blueprint” for the importance of bearing fruit for each of us, individually, and for all of us, together.

A. *The “vine” – Jesus. J 15:1, 5;*

B. *The “branches” – believers. J 15:2, 5*

C. *The “vinedresser” (gardener). God (HS) J 15:1*

D. *Believers “abide” in Christ. Intentionally “connected” w Christ. Branches must be connected to the source of life to become givers of life to others. We “bear fruit” bc we abide.*



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3. As we abide in Christ, we bear fruit for Christ – wherever we are or go.
 - A. Abide – Intentional, seeking, presence with Jesus and his word. John 8:31-32
 - Transforms my belief system as I personalize the Word of God to my life circumstances
 - My life is modeled after Jesus. 1 John 2:4-6
 - B. Bear fruit in the same way that Jesus did. 2 Cor 2:14-16

- “Abiding in Christ” is the means whereby the divine purposes of Christ are achieved. Apart from abiding, we can do nothing of spiritual value.
 - A. 15:2, the **vinedresser’s** goal: that every branch bear fruit.
 - B. 15:4, the **means** of achieving the goal: abiding in Christ.
 - C. 15:5, a **promise** with a **condition** – if we abide, fruit will be born.
 - D. 15:5, We **can do nothing** of spiritual value apart from **abiding** in Christ.

- How does the HS “prune” our lives spiritually? What does the absence of “fruit” in a believer’s life reveal to that believer?

A. *John 15:2, John 15:6*

- *Pruning is a “good” thing. Being thrown away as a branch does not mean I lose my salvation. Rather, Christ’s purposes are “in neutral” in my life.*



HDR



- Next Steps.

A. *Memorize John 15:4-5.*

- *Personalize the words as you do.*

B. *As the HS speaks to you in your daily time with Jesus, will you renew your commitment to Jesus? Will you give yourself evidence that you have done that by speaking to at least one person about spiritual matters?*