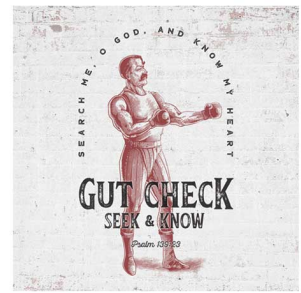


# My Walk with Jesus

With so much going on around us, we can't lose track of what's going on within us. A "**gut check**" is a pause to assess the state, progress, or condition of something. Let's assess the different facets of our relationship with God, and check if we've got what it takes.



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## INTRODUCTION

Today we explored what it means to abide in Jesus and the impact that can have on our lives and those in our circle of influence. The more we know God and are aware of His presence, the more joyful and fruitful we will be. We learned that a routine gut check is crucial to follow Jesus and to grow in our walk with Him.

## STARTER QUESTION

Are you one who checks the oil, tire pressure, brakes, wheel alignment, etc. in your car before you hit the road, or do you just, well...hit the road?

## INTO THE WORD

Read Isaiah 5:1-7 and then read John 15:1-11. How does the imagery of the vineyard differ in the New Testament description from the Old Testament description? Why were Jesus' claims about being the **true** vine so revolutionary?

John 15:1 in the NKJV says, "I am the **TRUE** vine, and My Father is the vinedresser [*emphasis added*]." Do you think the word **TRUE** implies that there are false vines? If your answer is yes, how do you think we can identify a false vine?

In John 15, how does Jesus say that we are to move from a "Fan" of Jesus to a "Follower"?

## APPLICATION

What are some practical ways to carry out a gut check in your spiritual life?

What are some times in your life when you have asked God to "search you"?

One of the results of being connected to Jesus is joy that does not make sense. What does it mean to experience joy that does not make sense? Have you ever experienced this? What was it like?

How can we allow God to prune us and take away the "sucker branches" that seem to choke our spiritual lives?

Pastor David compared abiding in Christ to being a cell phone plugged into a charging cable. How is this similar to abiding in Christ, and how is it different?

## PRAYER

During the coming week, let us prayerfully consider asking God to search our hearts, and let us prayerfully take action based on the response we receive.