

# Believershome School

The believer's home is a Christ-centered home;  
a place where the written Word of God is taught, honored, read and known.

## Part of the Pilgrim's Plough V: The Home Life

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### Introduction

Coming Soon!

### Chapter One: A Nature Parable

Based on The Prophecy of Ezekiel, chapter 15 and The Gospel of John, chapter 15  
Written by Tami Ann Swaim

Deep in the forest of Christianville there lived a tall old oak tree and a very old grape vine. The boughs of both reached out to great extents. The people of Christianville found both to be of great value. The great tall oak was most praised for its shade and admired by children for the hours of climbing fun it offered. The grape vine however also received its share of praise. The grapes gathered from this particular vine were used to produce the finest of wines that were imported to other villages and towns. The grape vine was most humbled by the fact that his fruit was used as a symbol of profound importance on Sunday's in the village churches. The oak provided homes for animals and the vine provided food for them.

One day the town's local lumber yard eyed the tall oak tree and agreed that it was time to cut her down. She was getting old and must be uprooted in order to provide space for younger sapling to be planted in her place. Though all the town's folk were upset about the idea of the honored tree no longer standing, they eventually gave their consent. As the oak was being hacked down the grape vine began to inquire of the woodsmen of what use is it to take the life of Mrs. Oak. The woodsmen began to fill Mr. Vine in on the uses for solid oak wood. "This tall oak tree will give us enough wood to make plenty kitchen tables and chairs. Perhaps we will have enough wood for doors and stair cases for several homes, said the woodsmen!" Mr. Vine began to reevaluate his own life. He decided that he too would like to be used in making furniture. He thought that he would get more appreciation if brought indoors. A table is quite practical. The family whose house I reside in would need me every day, thought the grapevine! The longer he thought about it, the more the idea appealed to him. Yes, he resolved to give himself over to the fate of an ax. After all he did come to dislike the yearly pruning he underwent. The village gardener would always say that it was for his own good that he

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be pruned. The gardener would inform Mr.Vine that the pruning process is what aids him in producing more and more fruit each year. Yet, knowing that the pruning process is very painful Mr.Vine did not heed the words of the gardener.

The grape vine did not expect that his request to be turned into furniture or even something of aesthetic value like a picture frame or display shelf, to be rejected. Mr. Vine even had the idea of becoming more of a stable fixture in the church as a small pew for children rather than wine that is drunk and gone forever. He thought it a grander destiny to be the table upon which the wine would be placed upon, a more supportive purpose. No, he was not pleased to hear that the woodsmen did not see any benefit in chopping him down. Feeling rather rejected and mocked he convinced a young boy to do the job. It was a most sad day for a lifeless vine can no longer bare forth fruit. Mr.Vines days of fruit bearing came to an end. Worst of all he learned that dried vine wood is no good for making anything, not even a peg for hanging a coat! You see vine wood becomes very brittle once dried.

Maybe you are like Mr.Vine. Maybe you are feeling as though you could be used of the Lord in a better way in another place or ministry. The purpose of a vine is to produce fruit not furniture. Though the pruning process is painful and there is no escaping it, fruit is promised. What is the fruit we are to bear as Christians? We are to bare fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control. Wouldn't you like more love in your life? How about more Joy and Peace! Abide in the vine and God will see to it that you are used for his glory.

## **Chapter Two: Coming Soon!**