

Kid's Slot –August 20-26

“Yes, I am the Vine”

OVERVIEW: Yes, I am the Vine •Jesus is the vine and we are the branches we need to remain in Him.

PREPARATION: Coloring Pages, Markers or Crayons

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: *John 15:5-8*

ICEBREAKER:

- What is your favorite kind of flower?
- Have you ever seen flowers growing?

READ: “Yes, I am the Vine”

MEMORY VERSE: John 15:5 - *Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.*

LIFE APPLICATION:

- List some of the things that you can do to stay connected to Jesus.
- What are some of the things from that list that you are already doing well?
- What are some of the things that you can work on doing better?

“Yes, I am the Vine”

Hi, I am so glad that you are here with us today! Today is an exciting day. We are starting our brand new church wide lesson theme. It is called Flourish. Does anyone know what Flourish means? Flourish means to grow, but not just grow a little bit. It means for something to grow big and healthy.

That is what we want to do during this church theme. We want to grow healthy with God. Not just healthy in our bodies, but healthy in our hearts and mind. Jesus compared people growing with God to the way that plants grow.

Read John 15:5-8. ⁵“*I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.*” ⁶*If you don't remain joined to me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and dries up. Branches like those are picked up. They are thrown into the fire and burned.* ⁷*If you remain joined to me and my words remain in you, ask for anything you wish. And it will be done for you.* ⁸*When you bear a lot of fruit, it brings glory to my Father. It shows that you are my disciples.”*

Do you know what a vine is? A vine is a plant that grows really long. There are branches that grow off of the vine and those branches produce fruit. The most common and useful kind of vine is a grape vine. What kind of fruit do you think grapevines produce? Grapes!

What would happen if you cut the branches and leaves off of a vine? They would stop growing and dry up. If you had a grapevine and cut

off the branches, would the grapes still grow? No, of course not! The only way that branches and fruit grow is when they are attached to the vine.

In these verses Jesus says that He is the vine and we are the branches. We have to remain in Him. That means that we need to stay connected to Him. That is the only way to grow and make fruit. *“I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can’t do anything without me.”*

If we want to stay connected to Jesus, then we have to be with Him ALL the time. What are some things we can do to stay connected to Christ?

Staying connected to Jesus first means we have to give our hearts to Him. We have believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sins. Once we have done that, then we have to always try to learn more about Him and grow in Him.

Just like the branches can’t be away from the vine, we can’t be away from Him. One way to stay close to Him is to pray. We can pray, not just at meal times and bed times, but ALL the time. Pray when we are at school and feeling nervous about our new class. Pray when we are grateful about what happened that day. Pray when we are scared of the thunder at night. Pray when we are happy that we have time to play. Remaining in Jesus means that we are always talking to Him.

Another way to stay connected to Him is to read our Bible. We are going to have a memory verse this week in life group. We can work on learning that verse so that we can always know what God’s word says. If you would like to start reading your Bible, I suggest you start with the Book of John in the New Testament. The Book of John is all about Jesus’ life!

Coming to church and life group also helps you stay connected to Jesus. When you come to church, you get to be around other people who are trying to grow with Jesus. It is always easier to do something if you have the support of other people!

Worship is another great way to stay connected to Him. When you sing songs about Jesus or list all of the great things He has done, it helps you draw closer to God and it gives Him glory. You can worship at your house, in your car, at church or even at school!

This week let’s all find ways to help us better stay connected to Jesus!

Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, pieces of paper, thin markers or dark pens, one chair

What You Do:

- Explain to students that they are now going to have to complete task while they are literally connected to each other - like a branch to a vine.
- Teams of two join hands to form a line. The partners must hold hands and CANNOT let go.
- Partners will compete to which group can perform the tasks quickest while their hands are tapped together. This can be done as a race or you can time the kids to see how quickly they can complete the tasks.
- Here are some suggestions:
 - Fold a paper airplane.
 - Cut out a shape from a piece of paper.
 - Roll up a piece of paper and put a rubber band around it.
 - Untie and tie the shoe of someone in the room

What You Say:

“What was fun? Hard? Easy? What did groups have to do to be successful? Just like we had to stay connected during the game, we have to make sure that we are staying connected to Jesus all the time!”

I am the Vine Coloring Page

What You Need: Coloring Pages, Markers or Crayons

What You Do:

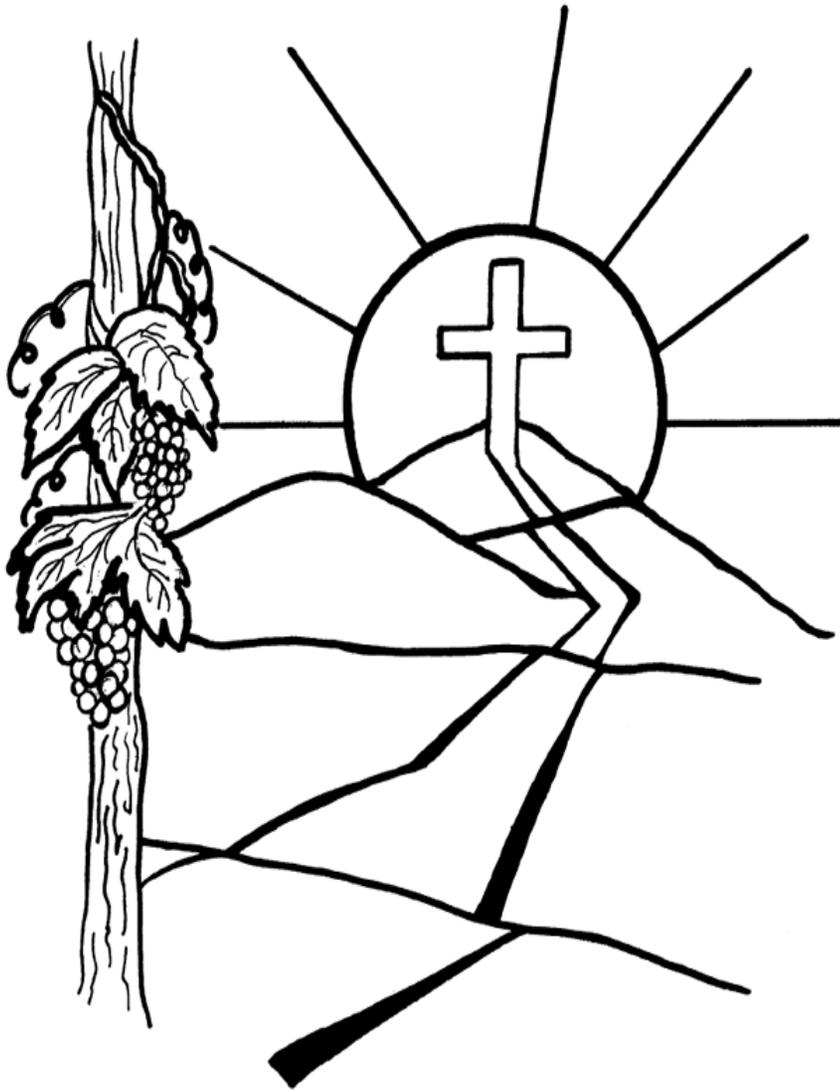
- Give each child a coloring page and some markers or crayons.
- Have the child color the picture.
- As they are coloring, talk with the children about different ways they can get closer to God.

What You Say:

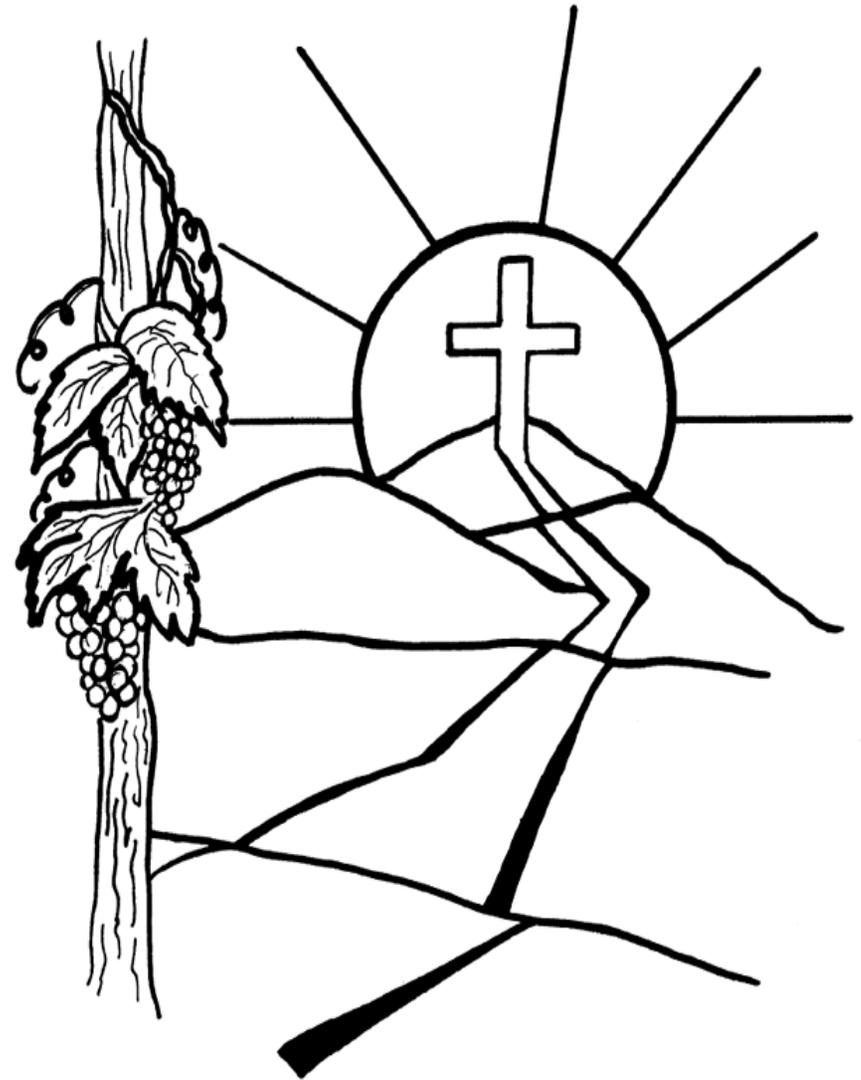
“This picture can remind us that we have to remain with Jesus to grow. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about some ways that you grow with God?)**. I like that the Bible verse is listed at the bottom of the page. This is our memory verse for the month. You can hang this up in your room to help remind you to do the things you need to grow with God.”

RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids' videos available to you on www.rightnowmedia.org – it's free!



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