



CHILDRENS PROGRAMME

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? I AM THE TRUE VINE JOHN 15:1-8

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God,
We are thankful you are the God we can know.
You are with us here and everywhere we go.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.



STARTER:

Resources: a lamp

A couple of weeks ago we looked at Jesus being the light of the World. Because Jesus is in us, we have His light shining through us too. Let's sing This Little Light of Mine and let's turn the lamp on so it can shine.

(switch on the lamp but don't plug it in. Stop singing when you notice that the light isn't shining.)

I wonder what is wrong, my light isn't shining.
(Someone will probably notice that it isn't plugged in.)

Oh, here's the problem, my light isn't plugged in! Now that we are plugged in, let's try it again.

The lamp was shining brightly, wasn't it? It's pretty hard for a light to shine when it isn't connected to the power source, isn't it? Well, actually, it isn't just hard — it's impossible!

BIBLE LESSON

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told his disciples a story to teach them the importance of staying connected to him. Of course, Jesus didn't use a lamp to tell his story, because electricity hadn't even been invented yet. Instead, Jesus used an example that his disciples would understand. He used the example of a vine.

You know what a vine is, don't you? It is a plant with a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches should have grapes on them.

Our Bible story for this session is in the Gospel of **John 15:1-8**. Read it now together.

Knowing about and loving Jesus is like growing on the vine.

- Who is the vine?
- Who are the branches?
- Have you ever picked fruit before? Fruit can't grow anymore when it's not on the vine. If it comes off the vine too early, it must be thrown away because it's not ready to be eaten and it might make you sick.
- What happens if the fruit stays on the vine until it's ripe or ready to be picked? Eventually, when the fruit is ready, it is picked off the vine and will be shared with others. More fruit will grow in its place.

Have you ever seen a branch that has been broken off a tree or a vine? What happens to it? It withers up and dies. Can it ever have any fruit on it again? No, it isn't any good for anything — except firewood. Just as the lamp must be plugged in before its light can shine, and just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us.

Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit like being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, he wants us to love others as he has loved us.

CRAFT:

1. On a large sheet of paper draw a brown line, with purple and green paint use thumb and fingerprints to add leaves and grapes to the vine. Write, "I am the vine, you are the branches."
2. If you have some seeds why not plant them and as your own 'vine' (this can be any flower, fruit or vegetable), as you do remember how you are growing with Jesus. Or with the help of an adult go out into the garden and do some weeding – getting rid of the things that stop the 'vines' growing and being fruitful.

TIME FOR REFLECTION:

(You might want to have a piece of fruit during this time.)

Ask the children what kind of fruit Jesus could have been speaking about.

Jesus didn't mean that we should produce apples or oranges! Rather, he meant that our lives should show good characteristics and qualities.

The Bible tells us that the fruit would be like this . . .

'Love', 'Joy', 'Peace', 'Patience', 'Kindness', 'Goodness', 'Faithfulness', 'Gentleness' and 'Self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23)

Imagine what our home, school, community and world would be like if we were producing these fruits.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God

Jesus tells us he is the vine;

Growing with Jesus, we will be just fine.

We are thankful you are the God we can know.

You are with us here and everywhere we go.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

