



The Vine and the Branches

Lesson Aim: To understand what it means to remain in Jesus and bear fruit.

THE WORSHIP - AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God is: The King Who Teaches

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Kingdom Parable: John 15:1-5

What He has done: Jesus taught He is the Vine and we are the branches.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Unit 5: The King Who Teaches—Parables 1			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
23	The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-7	Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.	To recognize we wander like sheep and Jesus is our Shepherd.
24	The Sower, Luke 8:4-8, 11-15	Jesus taught about four different responses to God's Word.	To understand why some believe God's Word and some do not.
25	The Vine and the Branches, John 15:1-5	Jesus taught He is the Vine and we are the branches.	To understand what it means to remain in Jesus and bear fruit.
26	The Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16	Jesus taught about a fair and generous land owner.	To know God is fair and generous.
27	The Great Banquet, Luke 14:15-24	Jesus taught about guests invited to a banquet.	To know that that not everyone accepts Jesus invitation.

COUNSELOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 1:1-3. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for giving us a way to remain in You, that You may bring forth fruit in our lives. Help us teach this truth to the children. Amen."

WHAT is CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the Kings & Kingdoms Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Both versions cover the same parables. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc. Camp Venture is most often introduced as Sunday School curriculum during school vacation months but can easily be adapted as a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

TREASURE TREAT: The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, campers receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at Resourcewell.org. You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 25	Camp Games: Grape Gathering Relay	One basket or bag per team, real or artificial grapes or purple paper crumbled into grape-size balls
THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" "The Fruit of the Spirit" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Cedarmont Worship for Kids: Volume 2
		Worship Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:22-23	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 25 Critter Kingdom script or storybook
THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME	Up to 10	Kingdom Parable: John 15:1-5	Bibles, optional: Fruit of the Vine snack (grapes and grape juice)
	Up to 5	Parable Pal	Camp Cooler containing Parable Pal letter, colorful paper cut into various fruit shapes, timer, pencil
	Up to 5	Share a Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	The Vine and the Branches Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways or W ³ s, Letters from Camp, basket, pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, optional: purple tissue paper, glue or glue sticks, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love The Lord," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Fruit of the Vine	Grapes, grape juice
	Up to 5	Discussion: Modern Parable	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Parable Wind Chimes– The Vine and the Branches	Ribbon, large bead, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch, clothespin (doll pin style) or craft sticks, green and purple pipe cleaners
	Up to 5	Bonus Parable: The Two Sons	Bible open to Mark 4:26-29, The Two Sons Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Color Decode	Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will get to know each other better with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to King Jesus. Pray.

GAME: GRAPE GATHERING RELAY

Purpose: To play a teamwork game introducing the Parable of the Vine and the Branches.

Supplies: One basket or bag per team, real or artificial individual grapes or use purple paper crumbled into grape-size balls

Prepare: Scatter grapes around the play area floor.

Jesus told many parables to teach us about God's kingdom. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Vine and the Branches. Jesus may have been talking about vines that grow grapes so let's play "Grape Gathering Relay" and see how many grapes your team can collect.

Directions:

1. Divide the campers into two or three large teams.
2. Have the campers stand in a line, shoulder-to-shoulder, and link arms at the elbows.
3. Give a basket or bag to the child at the end of each team line.
4. Explain the rules to the campers:
 - First child in line picks up one grape at a time and hands it to the next child in line.
 - Campers can use their hands, but they must keep their arms linked at the elbow.
 - Campers pass grapes down the line until the grape reaches the basket.
 - If a team drops a grape or unlinks elbows, the first child in the line picks up the grape and begins passing it again from the beginning of the line.
5. On your signal, the teams work to fill their basket or bag with the most grapes.
6. Continue playing until all the grapes are gathered.
7. Count the number of grapes in each basket or bag to determine the winning team.

Teacher Tip: To increase the level of difficulty, have campers pass the grapes using their knees or toes.

What happened if you let go of your teammate while passing a grape? (The grape had to start over.) **You could only collect grapes if you were connected to each other. Branches can only grow grapes if they are connected to a vine. Why?** (The vine collects what the branches need for grapes to grow—food, water, and sunlight.) **Can the branch make grapes without the vine?** (No.) **Let's find out what Jesus wanted us to learn from this parable.**

Grand Prize: On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream party, pizza party, etc. Before closing on the last day, have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party. Always encourage good sportsmanship and cheering for each other.

Counselor Clues: All games may be adapted to a competitive or a non-competitive version. Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to compete, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1st place; 75,000 points for 2nd place; 40,000 points for 3rd place; 30,000 points for 4th place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP — AT THE CAMPFIRE

Counselor Clue: To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.



We gather at the campfire to worship Jesus as the King who teaches. Jesus teaches us that like a vine grows its branches, He stays with us and helps us grow. When we stay connected to Him we are like branches that bear fruit. The fruit we bear is called the fruit of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23.



One way to build His kingdom is to give our offering to His church. Play: "The Fruit of the Spirit" as background music while collecting the offering.

Jesus wants us to stay connected to Him as a branch stays connected to its vine. Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song that reminds us we can go to Him every day. In this song we call Him Yahweh which is the Hebrew name for the Lord. Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on being connected with Jesus.



Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 25, including the reciting of the Camper's Code:

Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.
I will love my neighbor as myself.
I will be a light wherever I go.



Kingdom Parable

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Counselor Clue: Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Optional: Bless and serve the "Fruit of the Vine" snack (grapes and grape juice) now. Campers enjoy snack while reading and discussing the Parable of the Vine and the Branches.

Welcome to Tent Time. At the campfire, we talked about the vine and the branches. The branches need to stay connected to the vine in order to bear fruit. Another way of saying, "stay connected" is to say "remain."



Let's read for ourselves what Jesus said about the vine and the branches. You will find it in John 15:1-5. If you brought your Bible, you may read along silently with me. Before we read, let's ask God open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Choose a camper to pray aloud. Campers may eat the Fruit of the Vine snack while a counselor reads John 15:1-5.

Who is the True Vine? (Jesus.) **Who are the branches?** (We are.) **To remain means to stay. When we stay close to Jesus, we are like branches that stay connected to the vine. How can we stay close to Jesus?** (Campers respond.)

When a branch bears good fruit, the fruit is proof the branch is attached to the vine and is growing strong. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These fruits are seen in our good deeds and attitudes that build God's kingdom. A good deed is an action that helps others. A good attitude is a positive way of thinking about things. When we stay close to Jesus, we do good deeds and show good attitudes.



Parable Pal

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

During Tent Time, we always open our Camp Cooler to find something from our Parable Pal about the kingdom of God. Let's see what our Parable Pal can show us about the vine and the branches. Counselor opens cooler and reads the letter from the Parable Pal. Cooler also contains colorful paper cut into various fruit shapes, a timer, and a pencil.

Hello Campers,

It's your Parable Pal here! I hope you're having a great day at Camp Venture!

I love to eat good fruit, don't you? Good deeds and good attitudes in our lives are like good fruit on branches. I know a fun game called Branch Charades that can help us picture that together. In this game, we will act out some good deeds that are like the good fruit on a branch from the True Vine—that's Jesus!

First, make a list of good deeds. Your counselor can print one good deed from the list onto each piece of paper fruit in the cooler.

After your counselor divides you into buddies, each pair of buddies gets to pick a fruit from the cooler. Each pair will have 30 seconds to act out the deed together without saying a word. See who can guess each good deed!

**Keep cool, campers!
Your Parable Pal**

THE WAY *continued...*



SHARE A PRAYER

Let's thank Jesus as the True Vine. As the branches, we can do nothing without Him! Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests.

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us all we need to stay connected with You. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones that we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. (Pause of silence.) **We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.**

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

KINGDOM PARABLE JOURNAL: Today, your Treasure Treat is the Vine and the Branches Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Two Sons. You can discover more about this additional parable in today's Daily Way (W³ for older students). Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect the Kingdom Parable Stickers. Collect all twenty stickers by joining us here each time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 25 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.**

W³ CHALLENGE (For Older Campers): Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #25 instead of the Daily Way. **Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!**

PARABLE POSTER PROJECT: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's work on our Parable Poster Project. Before class, draw a very thick vine with many branches from the top of the poster to the bottom and one branch on the ground, not attached to the vine. In class, ask a camper to print "The Vine and the Branches" on the poster. Using crayons or markers, campers add fruit to the large vine. Optional: Roll small bits of purple tissue paper into grape-size balls. Attach as grape bunches with glue.

Counselor's Clue: Save the Parable Poster each week to hang in the room or create an oversized book.

LETTERS FROM CAMP: Write a Letter from Camp to someone in your home to let them know what you did today. Write your favorite thing about today and something special about the parable you just learned. Sign it and take it home.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FRUIT OF THE VINE

Purpose: Campers will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Grapes, grape juice

Optional: Serve this snack during the reading of the Word.

Grapes grow on small branches that are connected to a large vine. Today, let's enjoy these grapes which are the fruit of a grapevine.

Directions:

1. Serve grapes and juice.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Have you ever watched a plant grow blooms or fruit?"**

DISCUSSION: MODERN PARABLE

Purpose: To better understand the parable point through a modern day illustration.

Supplies: None

In Bible times, there were many farmers, shepherds, and vineyard workers. Jesus told parables about seeds, sheep, and vines because it helped people living in Bible times understand His point. If Jesus was in your neighborhood, or at your school, what might He use in His parables? (School, farming, electronics, sports, movies, etc.) Have the campers create a modern day parable to make Jesus' point that we can do nothing unless we remain close to Him. (For example, compare a vine and branches to a power switch and electronics of any kind.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES–THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Purpose: Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Vine and the Branches.

Supplies: Ribbon, large bead, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch, clothespin (doll pin style) or craft stick, green and purple pipe cleaners

Prepare: Cut a 20-inch ribbon. To keep the wind chime balanced, punch a hole about 1-inch from the edge, directly opposite from the strand attached in the previous lesson.

Optional: Use a large bead to secure the 20-inch ribbon above the plate. Use green or purple ribbon and beads or shells to match the color of a vine and grapes. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc. Display a finished craft.

Teacher Tip: Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for new campers who join camp in future sessions.

Today, we heard the story of the vine and the branches. Who is like the vine? (Jesus.) **Who are like the branches?** (We are as Jesus' followers.) **What is like the fruit?** (Ways we serve God.) **To serve God, what must we do?** (Stay connected to Jesus.) **Let's each make a wind chime strand to help us remember the Parable of the Vine and the Branches.**

Directions:

1. Thread the 20-inch ribbon through the hole on the edge of the plate and tie a knot large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate.
2. Tie a bead to the bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
3. Lay ribbon on a flat surface. Glue the clothespin lengthwise to the center of the ribbon.
4. Twist one green pipe cleaner around clothespin.
5. Cut purple pipe cleaner in half.
6. Twist one end of each piece into a tight spiral to look like bunch of grapes. Twist the other end around the clothespin.
7. Secure the pipe cleaner pieces to clothespin with glue.

BONUS PARABLE: THE TWO SONS

Purpose: To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

Supplies: Bible open to Matthew 21:28-31a, The Two Sons Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

Today's bonus parable is the story of the two sons. Camper or counselor reads Matthew 21:28-31a. **What was right about the first son's choice?** (He changed his attitude and obeyed.) **When have you refused and then chosen to obey?** (Campers respond.) **What was wrong about the second son's choice?** (He said he would obey but then did not. He lied and disobeyed.) **When have you promised to obey and then chosen not to do so?** (Campers respond.) **How can keeping close to Jesus help you make the right choice in obeying?** (Campers respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

GAME: COLOR DECODE

Purpose: Campers unscramble and learn the words to the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors

Prepare: For every four campers, cut a sheet of colored paper into four equal-size cards. On each of the cards write one of these phrases from the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart"/ "and with all your soul"/ "and with all your mind."/ "Love your neighbor as yourself." Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Mix up all of the sets. Note: If campers do not divide evenly into groups of four, give one or more campers two cards of the same color.
3. Give each camper a card.
4. On your signal, the campers are to search for the other three campers with matching color cards.
5. Once together, the campers put their cards in the correct order of the Bible Memory Verse and sit down. (They can use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
6. **How should we love God?** (With all our heart, soul, and mind.) **How should we love our neighbors?** (As ourselves.) **Jesus told parables to teach us how to live together in God's kingdom. The parables teach us how to love God and each other.**
7. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: To help campers memorize the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Matthew 22:37, 39 to each camper or team.
2. As helper directs, each camper or team quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to thighs and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.