



The Vine and the Branches

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

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Teaches

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 15:1-5

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

Key Verse: John 15:4

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 27:3

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	Lesson 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 landowner.	To know God is fair and generous.
27	The Great Banquet, Luke 14:15-24	Jesus taught about guests invited to a banquet.	To see that we need to respond to Jesus' invitation.

TEACHER'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."

TREASURE TREAT

The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, children 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.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Grape Gathering Relay	One basket or bag per team, real or artificial grapes or purple paper crumbled into grape-size balls
THE WORSHIP	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 Cedarhurst 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	Up to 10	Read the Word: John 15:1-5	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, optional: "Fruit of the Vine" snack (grapes and grape juice)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 27:3	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—The Vine and the Branches Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, 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 10	Game: Branch Charades	Colorful paper cut into various fruit shapes (one piece of fruit per pair of children), timer, one pencil, basket or bag for paper fruit
	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 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	Kingdom Parable Review	Parable titles printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite fruit?

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 children into two or three large teams.
2. Have the children 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 children:
 - First child in line picks up one grape at a time and hands it to the next child in line.
 - Children can use their hands, but they must keep their arms linked at the elbow.
 - Children 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 children 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.**



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship Jesus as our Teacher. Jesus teaches us that like a vine grows its branches, He stays with us and helps us grow. When we stay connected to Jesus 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.



The vine and the branches

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Teacher Tip: Serve the "Fruit of the Vine" snack (grapes and grape juice) to each child while teacher reads John 15:1-5.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class 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 Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned the Parable of the Sower. What happened to the seed that fell on the path? (Birds ate it.) **What happened to the seed on the rocky soil?** (The plant grew at first, but died because it had no root.) **What happened to the seed on the thorny soil?** (Thorns choked the plant.) **What happened to the seed on good soil?** (It grew strong and healthy, bearing lots of fruit.) **To bear fruit means to grow fruit.**

Today, we will hear the Parable of the Vine and the Branches.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: John 15:1-5.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

The branches need to stay connected to the vine in order to bear fruit. The Bible describes this connection as "remaining" or "abiding" in the vine. As I read, imagine Jesus Himself telling us this story. Read John 15:1-5.



Remaining in Jesus

THE WAY

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. What happens when a branch is not connected to the vine?** (It does not grow fruit. It withers and dies.) **In the same way, we are like branches that need to stay connected and close to the True Vine, Jesus.**

When a branch bears good fruit, the fruit is proof that 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. When we stay close to Jesus, we do good deeds and show good attitudes.

A good deed is an action that helps others. What are some examples of good deeds? (Examples of sharing, helping, encouraging, etc.) **These actions show we are connected to Jesus. What deeds show we are not connecting with Jesus?** (Children respond.)

An attitude is a way of thinking about things. Those with peaceful attitudes don't look for ways to argue. Those with willing attitudes look for ways to work together. How do you describe someone who has a patient attitude? (Children respond.) **How do you describe someone who has a joyful attitude?** (Children respond.)

If time allows, play the BRANCH CHARADES game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Just as a branch must remain attached to the vine to bear fruit, we are like branches that must remain attached to Jesus to bear fruit. How can you stay close and connected with Jesus? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus explained that His Father is the gardener for the vine and the branches. Hundreds of years before Jesus taught about the vine and the branches, the Bible describes how the Lord cared for His people like a gardener cares for his vineyard.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 27:3. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Isaiah 27:3.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

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

TREASURE TREAT: 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 (see Bonus Parable in GOT TIME?). You can discover more about this parable in this week's Daily Way. Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their 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. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of a large vine with fruit on its branches. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

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



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FRUIT OF THE VINE

Purpose: Children 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. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Have you ever watched a plant grow blooms or fruit?"**

GAME: BRANCH CHARADES

Purpose: This version of charades reinforces specific ways we can bear fruit in God's kingdom.

Supplies: Colorful paper cut into various fruit shapes (one piece of fruit per pair of children), timer, one pencil, basket or bag for paper fruit

To bear good fruit is to serve others through good deeds and good attitudes. In this game, we will act out some good deeds that are like the good fruit on a branch from the True Vine.

Teacher Tip: Inspire the children's brainstorming with a few specific examples of good fruit: situations involving sharing, helping, leading, rescuing, encouraging, and obeying.

Directions:

1. Children brainstorm to make a list of good deeds and good attitudes.
2. Teacher prints each good deed on a different paper fruit.
3. Place paper fruit in basket or bag.
4. Divide children into pairs.
5. First pair chooses a fruit, and silently pantomimes a good deed as remaining children guess what is being acted out.
6. Repeat until all pairs have had a turn.

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 children 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. Volunteer 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?** (Children 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?** (Children respond.) **How can keeping close to Jesus help you make the right choice in obeying?** (Children 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: Children 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 children, 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 the sets together. Note: If children do not divide evenly into groups of four, give one or more children two cards of the same color.
3. Give each child a random card.
4. On your signal, the children are to search for the other three children with matching color cards.
5. Once together, the children 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 children 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 child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group 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.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus. Lessons 23-32 explore the parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Jesus Teaches about the Lost Sheep: Throughout Jesus' ministry on earth, He used parables to teach people about His kingdom. In the Parable of The Lost Sheep, what does the shepherd do when one of his sheep is lost? (He leaves the 99 sheep to find the lost sheep. He celebrates when he finds it.) **How is the shepherd's celebration like the celebration in heaven?** (Heaven celebrates when one sinner turns to God.)

Jesus Teaches about the Sower: In the Parable of the Sower, the sower stands for God. What does the seed represent? (God's Word, the Bible.) **The different types of ground stand for the different hearts that hear God's Word. Jesus said seed that falls on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart who remember and obey God's Word. What are some examples of good fruit we bear when we do that?** (Good attitudes and good actions such as showing patience, showing kindness, serving others, sharing God's Word, etc.)

Jesus Teaches about the Vine and the Branches: In the Parable of the Vine and the Branches, the gardener stands for God the Father. Who is the True Vine? (Jesus.) **What happens to the branches that stay connected to the vine?** (They bear fruit.) **Name some examples of fruit that we bear as we remain close with Jesus?** (The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are seen in our good deeds and attitudes that build God's kingdom.)

How to create a display for reviewing the Kingdom Parables:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the footprints.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the display using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan