

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The True Vine

THEME: We can do nothing without Jesus!

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-11



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study *God's Word* together.

This week we learned about **The True Vine**. The theme was "**We can do nothing without Jesus.**" How difficult it is for us to try to achieve things on our own. At first, our steps might appear to be heading in the right direction, but if we are not abiding in Christ we will not accomplish anything.

This week we will learn about Jesus as the true vine and how that we are the branches. We will learn how we can be "pruned" by the vinedresser (God), to enhance our growth and fruit. We can also see that when the branch is not connected to the vine, the branch does not grow or produce life. This is a great story for us to learn from.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 15:1-12**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of *God's Word* in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

The Vine

Text: John 15:1 – “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

Also read John 15:1-11

Mario jumped into the front seat of the pickup truck with his father, Antonio. “Where are we going dad?” asked Mario. “We need to go and check on Mr. Gonzales' vineyard”, replied Mario's dad. Mario's father Antonio worked on Mr. Gonzales' farm. Mr. Gonzales owned many acres of almonds, peaches, and grapes. Today Mario and his father would be checking on the condition of Mr. Gonzales' grapes. When Mario and his father arrived at the grape vineyard they noticed that the vineyard appeared to be overgrown. Mario walked up to the first row of grapes and noticed that there were bunches upon bunches of grapes.

“Wow!” exclaimed Mario; there are so many grapes on that branch. “How can so many grapes grow on one branch?” asked Mario. “You see that large vine?” replied Mario's dad. “That large vine supports those branches. The vine provides important things such as nutrients and oxygen to those branches so they can give the branches life and produce the fruit. The vine is the source of strength for those branches. Also, Mr. Gonzales is a vinedresser, which means he prunes off the dead branches and the thick branches, which have a lot of fruit in order to make the vines healthier. When the vineyard is healthy there is a lot of growth, which means there is a lot of fruit. Hop in the truck Mario and I will take you over to the other part of the farm where you can see more grape vineyards.”

As we read John 15:1-11 we will learn about the relationship of believers to Jesus, and how it is a lot like the vines that Mario and his father were working in. It is very important to understand our relationship to Jesus. In these verses Jesus refers to Himself as a Vine. In the story above, Mario's father talks about how the vine is connected to the branches. The vine provides the branches with nutrients and oxygen, which gives life and strength to the branches. In our life with Jesus, He is the source of life and strength for all Christians. Without the vine, there is no branch. Without Jesus we can do nothing. **Continued on Day Two...**

- Who are the branches in God's Word? Who is the vine?
- How can you **abide** in Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Abide: To settle down and live in. To stay in fellowship with Jesus so that His life can work in and through us to produce fruit.

Weak and Useless

Text: John 15:4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

Also read Colossians 1:23

Continued from Day One... Mario's dad pulled up to the second set of vineyards. These vineyards produced a different kind of grape. Mario noticed that there was hardly any fruit and a lot of withered and dead branches. “Dad, why are there so many dead and fruitless branches?” asked Mario. Mario's father said, “Those branches grew so wild, it's almost like they tried to separate themselves from the vine. If they separate from the vine, then they will starve and die and no fruit will be produced. That's what happened to these branches.”

“Will these branches ever produce fruit?” asked Mario. Mario's father replied, “The branch cannot bear fruit on its' own. It has to stay attached to the vine. Branches are weak and useless by themselves. They are only good for burning, but not for bearing fruit. The branch cannot produce its own life; it must draw that life from the vine.”

Jesus tells us in John 15:4 that we need to abide (or remain) in Him, just like a branch needs to abide in the vine. A branch cannot live or produce fruit by itself. We can not grow and produce fruit apart from Jesus. Just as a branch is weak and useless of itself, we too are weak and useless if we try to do things in our own abilities. Have you ever tried to do something for Jesus without His help? I have tried to do things on my own, such as trying to get through a difficult time. And you know what? I failed! But when I bring that problem to Jesus, I am abiding in Him and He helps me through it. A favorite verse of mine is, “I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13. **Continued on Day Three.**

- Have you ever tried to get through something on your own? What was it like?
- What are some ways you can abide in Christ?
- Do others see Jesus in the way you respond to problems?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Weak: Lacking strength or energy.
Useless: Having no purpose or use.

Caring for the Branches

Text: John 15:2 – “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

Also read Romans 8:28, 32

Continued from Day Two... “Mario, I need to get back to the ranch house before Mr. Gonzales leaves.” “Where is Mr. Gonzales going?” asked Mario. Mario’s dad replied, “Mr. Gonzales is leaving to go out and prune his vineyards. Mr. Gonzales has been pruning his own vineyards for many years.” “Do you think he will let me go with him?” asked Mario. “I believe so,” said Mario’s father. Mario and his father raced back to the ranch house to catch up with Mr. Gonzales. Mario was able to go with Mr. Gonzales out into the vineyards. Mr. Gonzales stopped at the first vineyard where all the healthy grapes were. Mr. Gonzales walked over to the first row of grapes and started to cut back all the branches with the fruit on them.

“Why are you cutting off all the good fruit branches, Mr. Gonzales?” said Mario. “I want this branch to produce more fruit, said Mr. Gonzales. When I cut back the healthy branch, it grows bigger and stronger producing more fruit. I have to be very careful of which branch I prune though. Some branches can become diseased and I need to cut out that bad part of the branch so the branch can grow stronger and healthier. When I find a branch that hasn’t produced fruit or that is dead, I cut it off and burn it in the fire. That’s how I keep my vineyard producing a lot of fruit.”

In John 15:4, Jesus tells us about the vinedresser. The vinedresser represents God. God the Father, our Gardener, loves us very much; He wants only the best for us. He doesn’t want us to settle for bearing a little fruit, or even some fruit—He wants us to bear “much” fruit. So He does some careful pruning in our lives to take away things that keep us weak as Christians. Sometimes He cuts out the good things also, because He knows that by cutting the branch back, He is helping us to grow stronger. We need to trust in Him and allow Him to work things out in our lives. **Continued on Day Four.**

- Why does a vinedresser prune a healthy vineyard?
- Are you allowing God to prune away the dead branches in your life?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Bearing fruit: Having good results come from my life because I abide in Christ.

Feeding Others

Text: Proverbs 10:21 – “The lips of the righteous feed many.”

Also read Hebrews 13:15

Continued from Day Three... “Mr. Gonzales, what do you do with all of the fruit you grow?” asked Mario. “Feed others,” replied Mr. Gonzales. “You see Mario, all of these grapes are grown for a particular reason, to provide food for others. If I do not take proper care of this fruit such as, pruning, vine dressing, and watering, the fruit will not grow. It takes time to produce a good crop of grapes. A good crop does not come overnight,” claimed Mr. Gonzales.

As Christians we must remember that the branches do not eat the fruit; others do. That means we are not producing fruit to please ourselves but to serve others. We should be the type of people who “feed” others by our words and our works. “The lips of the righteous feed many.” Proverbs 10:21. This is also how people see Jesus in our lives. Through others seeing and enjoying the love, joy, peace, etc. coming out of our lives they can see what the Holy Spirit can produce in a life. It makes them want to have that kind of life.

There are several different kinds of spiritual fruit talked about in God’s word. We can bear fruit when we win others to Jesus (Romans 1:13). As we grow in God’s holiness and obedience, we are bearing fruit (Romans 6:22). When our lives are dedicated to Jesus we bear the fruit of a giving heart (Romans 15:28). Galatians 5:22-23 tells us about the “fruit of the spirit.” This is the kind of spiritual life that glorifies God. When others see this fruit in your life they want to have it also. When they “**crave**” your lifestyle, they are hungry for what God has given to you. So, by being committed to Jesus we can have this life that is full of bearing fruit that others can eat. **Continued on Day Five.**

- Look up Galatians 5:22-23. What are the “fruits of the spirit?”
- Are your words **encouraging** and kind to others? Especially to your brother or sister.
- Do others “crave” your lifestyle? If not, what can you do to change your lifestyle?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Craving: A consuming desire.

Encouraging: To give support to.

Day Five

What Kind of Branch are You?

Text: John 15:8 – “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

Also read John 15:5,6

Continued from Day Four... Mr. Gonzales is a Christian. He has been a Christian for a long period of time. Mr. Gonzales asked Mario if he was a Christian. Mario said, “I think so, I attend church occasionally with my mother.” Mr. Gonzales explained to Mario all about what Jesus talks about in John 15:1-12. He told Mario that Jesus was the Vine and we are the branches. He also told Mario about what the fruit represents and why it’s important for the vinedresser to prune the branches. Mario listened very closely. He really understood everything that Mr. Gonzales was talking about. Mario realized that he truly wasn’t a Christian. He realized that he needed Jesus. Mario accepted Jesus as his savior. Now Mario has everlasting life, he is definitely connected to the vine. He couldn’t wait to tell his father everything he had learned.

Are you abiding in Jesus Christ? Are you bearing much fruit? There are times when I have to look at my life and ask these questions to myself. Sometimes, we need to stop and ask, “What type of branch are we?” When we ask ourselves this question, we need to bring God into the picture. We are unable to be a Christian without Jesus. If you are bearing fruit, showing the fruit of the spirit in your life and doing good things for Him, God will use you to win others for Him. And will you get the glory? No, God will. “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” John 15:8.

- So, what type of branch are you?
- Look at John 15:7 and Psalm 37:4 to find the rewards for abiding in Jesus.
- How can you help others who are not abiding in the True Vine (JESUS)?

Kid's Prayer Time



If you are abiding in the vine then you will see the fruit that is produced in your life. Are you feeding others with this fruit? If you are not abiding in the vine, what do you need to do? Pray this week for those who are not abiding in Christ. Acknowledge Christ in everything you do for we can do nothing apart from Christ.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"... abide in My love."

Third Grade and Above

"As the Father loved
Me, I also have loved
you; abide in My
love."

John 15:9