

Jesus is the Vine

Scripture Reference: John 15:1-17

Main Truth: Staying close to Jesus helps you be like Him.

Scripture Verse: "I am the vine you are the branches." John 15:5

Last week we saw how Jesus was comforting His disciples by telling them that when He left earth, He would send the Holy Spirit to be their helper. Jesus is still talking to the disciples, He still had a lot more to tell them. Jesus said to them, "I am the vine and my Father is the gardener." Think about what a gardener does for plants. He will give them shade or sun, give them plenty of water, pull away weeds around them. Gardeners take good care of their plants. And God the Father takes good care of us.

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches." This is our verse from John 15:5. Jesus was helping the disciples understand that we need Jesus. Can a branch just grow on its own? Do branches just start growing up out of the ground? No! They grow off of something. (Bring a visual of some sort- a picture, whatever you can find to illustrate this). We cannot grow spiritually without Jesus, He gives us true life, eternal life. Jesus is the only perfect one and He died for the sins of the world. When we believe that God sent Jesus to save us from our sins, we become branches on His vine, we have eternal life that can never be taken away.

Another thing about branches- what comes off of them? Fruit! Jesus was saying that if we are close to him like branches are to a vine, we will bear fruit too! Does this mean we're going to grow some grapes out of our head? Of course not! Jesus was talking about spiritual fruit: to be loving, patient, kind, gentle, and peaceful. Jesus was loving, patient, kind, gentle, and peaceful. When we stay close to Jesus, He helps us be like Him.

Jesus said, "I chose you and you are my friends. Go and bear eternal fruit and love one another." Jesus wants us to do the same thing, bear fruit and love one another. We have been chosen to do this and are also Jesus' friends. How special is that? We are friends of the Lord Jesus Christ who is God. We are God's friends.

Then Jesus told the disciples, "I tell you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." True joy is found in being close to Jesus and bearing fruit in love as Jesus commanded. Obeying Jesus gives us the best kind of happiness ever.

So, how can we stay close to Jesus? The simple answer, by being like Him! That means that: We do things His way, we obey God. We praise Him as the God who saved us from our sin so that we can live forever. We pray. We love others like Jesus did. We are loving, patient, kind, gentle, and peaceful. We bear fruit which glorifies God. We read His word in the Bible. We have true joy in knowing Jesus. Let's pray for God to help us stay close to Jesus and be like Him.

Questions:

Whose true words are in the Bible? God's.

Who is the "gardener"? God the Father.

Who is the "vine"? Jesus.

Who are the "branches"? People who believe in Jesus.

Who takes good care of us? God.

Who gives us eternal life? Jesus.

What does Jesus say that we need to grow? Fruit.

What is the fruit that Jesus is talking about? Love, patience, kindness, gentleness, peacefulness

Who are Jesus' friends? People who believe in Jesus.

Where does true joy come from? Being close to Jesus.

How can we stay close to Jesus? Be like Him: Pray, read the Bible, obey God, glorify God, bear fruit, have true joy, and love others.

Once we believe in Jesus, saving us from our sins, can we ever become not saved? Can we ever lose being saved from our sins? No! When we are saved, nothing can separate us from God, nothing we do can separate us from God.

Infant story:

Jesus loved His disciples very much and wanted to help them.

Jesus reminded them that God takes good care of them.

Jesus reminded them that they need Him to have good, eternal life.

By being close to Jesus, we can be loving, patient, kind, and gentle.

By being close to Jesus, we can love one another with the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Staying close to Jesus helps us be like Him.

This is a short story for them- go ahead and tell it to them twice!

Hymn suggestions: Good Morning, God, Trust and Obey, Jesus Loves Me Jesus Loves Me (Jesus loves me Jesus loves me, He is always always near If I do but love and trust Him there is nothing I need fear.), Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow.