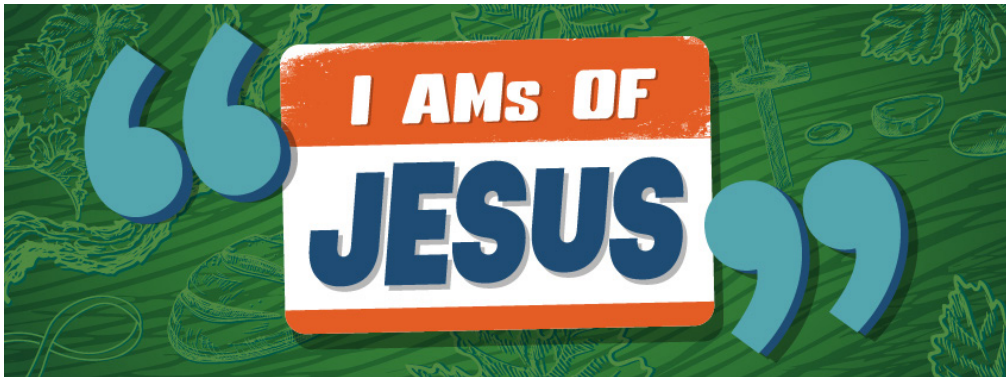




I AM THE TRUE VINE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *What is the biggest or most beautiful plant you have ever seen? Describe it.*
- Interactive Game: Connected!
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Leaf Art Breath Prayers
- Blessing Your Kids

I AM THE TRUE VINE LESSON 3

NAC USA
Goals and Objectives
[IA 3-5, 7-9, 13-15, 17-19, 23-25, 27-29](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#)
[IC 1-13](#) [ID 1, 3, 5](#) [IE 1-3](#)
[IIA 3, 6, 10](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:
Jesus Invites Us to Abide in Him

SCRIPTURE:
[John 15](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:
Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to teach His disciples how important it is to stay connected to God. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, and Jesus invites us to abide in Him.

WORD OF WONDER:
[John 8:12](#)
I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

As you continue to pour your hearts and efforts into nurturing the faith of the children entrusted to you, I wanted to take a moment to remind you of the powerful truth found in [John 15:1-12](#) — a passage that speaks to the heart of what it means to abide in Jesus. This passage is not just a call for us as adults but is especially relevant to you as you teach, mentor, and walk alongside the children in their journey of faith.

Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing" ([John 15:5](#)). What a beautiful promise — that as you abide in Him, His life will flow through you, empowering you to bear fruit that lasts, fruit that reaches into the lives of the children you teach. The seeds you are planting today, in their hearts, are not simply lessons or stories — they are opportunities for these young lives to stay connected to the true Vine, growing into vibrant, faithful followers of Christ.

Remember, you are not alone in this calling. Jesus promises that those who abide in Him will bear much fruit. In your moments of doubt, weariness, or challenge, lean into this promise. Trust that He is with you, guiding you, and empowering you by His Spirit to nurture these children in faith. Your role is crucial — for you are planting seeds of truth and love that, by God's grace, will one day blossom into a deep, lifelong relationship with Jesus.

Take time to reflect on the ways you abide in Jesus each day. How can you draw closer to Him in prayer, in His Word, in community? As you do, the children in your care will see His love in action, and they will learn, not just from your words, but from the very way you live and love.

Thank you for your faithful commitment to this important calling. You are doing more than teaching — you are cultivating hearts, shaping futures, and advancing the Kingdom of God, one child at a time.

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

WHO?

As the true vine, Jesus is the source of life and power for godly living. The Father is the gardener who removes dead branches from the vine and prunes others that produce fruit. Jesus tells His disciples they are fruit-bearing branches who abide, or remain joined, to Jesus.



WHAT?

Jesus tells His disciples to abide in Him as He abides in them. The disciples are dependent on Jesus. They can do nothing apart from Him. Abiding in Jesus entails obeying His commands, especially the command to love one another. This produces God-glorifying fruit.



WHERE?

The events of [John 14-17](#) take place in Jerusalem. By [John 15](#), Jesus and His disciples had finished their last meal and were en route to the Garden of Gethsemane, which is east of the temple mount and across the Kidron Valley.



WHEN?

This passage comes just before Jesus is betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. His suffering and death are soon to follow. [John 14-17](#) is sometimes called Jesus' farewell discourse.



CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

All of Jesus' disciples have a part to play in God's big story: to bear the fruit of the kingdom and reveal God's glory to others. But this only happens through constant dependence on Jesus, the source of life who empowers us to love as He loves.



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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), **True Vine Welcome Question Slide**

Before kids arrive, display the **True Vine Welcome Question Slide**, or write the following question on a whiteboard: "What is the biggest or most beautiful plant you have ever seen? Describe it." Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Always begin your class with a warm welcome and a social-emotional "check-in". Use the feelings chart and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?".
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger – a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the **Welcome Question**, and if you have younger kids, read the question for them. Invite kids to draw pictures of the biggest or most beautiful plants they have ever seen, such as a colorful flower or a giant oak tree, and to share their drawings with their neighbors.

Teaching Tip:

Do you have a favorite houseplant? Bring it in and share it with the kids. Then set it at the front of your teaching space and keep it there throughout the lesson to refer to as a visual aid.

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



At your start time...

Gather kids together and welcome them to church! Call on several kids to share their answers to the **Welcome Question**: *What is the biggest or most beautiful plant you have ever seen? Describe it.* Tell kids about the biggest or most beautiful plant you've ever seen.

Wow! You have seen some amazing plants! Today we are going to learn about a time when Jesus talked about plants as a way of teaching His disciples some very important truths. But first, it's time to be curious.

INTERACTIVE GAME: CONNECTED!

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), masking tape (prep only), permanent marker (prep only), small baskets or tubs (1 per 3–4 kids), timer, cardstock (optional), table (optional), **Leaves and Fruit Sheet** (1 per 3–4 kids), **Connected Slide**, **True Vine Wonder Truth Slide**, [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the **Leaves and Fruit Sheet** for every 3–4 kids, on cardstock if possible. Cut out the leaves and fruit along the dotted lines. Use masking tape and a permanent marker to number the small baskets or tubs; there should be one tub for every team of 3–4 kids. Place the numbered baskets/ tubs along one side of your space, on a table or on the floor. Just before this activity, scatter the leaf and fruit cutouts on the floor throughout your space, pictures facing up. You might also want to tape some to the wall where kids can reach them.

Display the **Connected Slide** and gather kids together. Help them form teams of 3–4. Assign each team a number that corresponds with the number on one of the baskets/tubs. Invite kids to stand up and link elbows with their team members—everyone on their team should be linked together in one line. Explain that when you say, "Go," their team's job is to pick up one leaf or fruit, carry it to their basket, and drop it in. Only then can they go back for another leaf or fruit. Whichever team has the most leaves and fruit in their basket after two minutes wins! However, if anyone from their team becomes disconnected (their arms unlinked), they must dump the contents of their basket/tub on the floor and start again.

Set a timer for two minutes or cue an upbeat song from the [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and explain to kids that the game ends when the music stops. When all the teams are ready, say: **Ready, set, go!** After two minutes, recruit kids to help count the items in their baskets, and congratulate the winning team!

Make it Inclusive: *Competition can cause stress and anxiety for some kids. To remove the competitive element from the game, label the items you're scattering with a number corresponding to the number on the baskets. The game only ends when all teams have found all of their items, and teams that are finished can cheer the remaining teams on!*

You all did a great job staying connected to your teammates as you collected leaves and vine fruit (fruit that grows on vines)! Today in God's big story, Jesus talks with His disciples about the importance of remaining connected to Him. He even compares Himself to a vine and His disciples to branches. Another word for staying connected is abiding. Our Wonder Truth today is: **JESUS INVITES US TO ABIDE IN HIM.**

Teaching Tip:*For Older Kids:*

The bigger the teams, the more challenging the game! Consider helping older kids form teams of about 10 kids each. Explain that a different person from the team must bend down and pick up the leaf or fruit each time while their arms remain linked to their teammates. (Yes, it will be a challenge!)

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Display the **True Vine Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Jesus is the true vine, (Kids repeat.)

And He invites me to abide in Him! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in an opening prayer. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that You are with us through Your Holy Spirit. We invite You to show us more of Yourself today. Teach us what it means to stay connected to Your Son, Jesus, and help us abide in Him. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **True Vine Title Slide**

Display the **True Vine Title Slide**. Invite the kids to open their Bibles to [John 15](#). Explain that John is one of the four Gospel books that tell about Jesus’ ministry; it was written by John, one of Jesus’ disciples.

Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story! Invite three volunteers to each read four verses from [John 15](#) as everyone else follows along: [1-4](#), [5-8](#), and [9-12](#). (If inviting kids to be the readers, provide the verses for them to preview ahead of time.)

Watch It!

Watch the [I Am the True Vine God’s Big Story!](#)

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Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

Experience It!

SUPPLIES: different kinds of fruit (2–3, such as an apple, a banana, and an orange); a large, healthy houseplant; pruning shears or scissors; long, thick rope, **Vineyard Slide** or **Sheet**, **Grapes Slide** or **Sheet**

Ahead of time, set the fruit, houseplant, shears/scissors, and rope nearby but out of sight. If you don't plan on using the **Vineyard Slide** and **Grapes Slide**, print the **Vineyard Sheet** and **Grapes Sheet**.

Gather kids together. Before Jesus went to the cross, He had some important words to tell His disciples. He told them there is a place for them in God's family, and that He is the way to God. He told them God would send the Holy Spirit as a forever friend to lead them and give them help. And He told them about vines and branches and how important it is to stay connected to God.

There are vines planted in places called vineyards. Show the **Vineyard Slide** or hold up the **Vineyard Sheet** for kids to see. The branches of vines are cared for by a gardener who makes sure they produce good, healthy fruit. Show the **Grapes Slide** or hold up the **Grapes Sheet**. Yum! Before Jesus came to earth, God planted His people, Israel, like a vine in the world ([Psalm 80:8–16](#); [Isaiah 5:1–7](#)). He wanted them to follow Him so their lives would produce good fruit.

I have some fruit right here. Hold up the different kinds of fruit you brought and ask the kids what each is. What is your favorite kind of fruit? Wait for responses. Those are all delicious, but that's not the kind of fruit Jesus is talking about. God's people, Israel, were to show the world what God is like with the "fruit" of their lives—things like kindness, compassion, and love. But even though God loved and cared for Israel, Israel didn't always love God back. The people produced bad fruit—things like bitterness, jealousy, and hate. The world needed a better vine!

Bring out your potted plant. Look at this plant. If I want it to grow and be healthy, what do I have to do? Wait for some answers. That's right. I must water it and set it in the sunlight so it can get the nutrients it needs. I must keep it warm enough. Point to the base/trunk of the plant. This part is like the "vine"—it connects the branches to the soil and keeps the plant alive. Point to a branch or stem. This is a branch. It stays healthy because it is connected to the main part of the plant, or vine. Jesus is like this vine!

Before Jesus died on the cross, He told His disciples, "I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener" ([John 15:1](#)). Jesus was letting them know that He is the source of life and that the power to live by God's plan comes by staying connected to Him. God the Father is the gardener who cares for the vine and tends the branches. Jesus explained, "He cuts off every branch joined to me that does not bear fruit. He trims every branch that does bear fruit. Then it will bear even more fruit" ([John 15:2](#)).

But wait! If Jesus is the vine, then who are the branches? "I am the vine," Jesus told His disciples again. "You are the branches" ([John 15:5a](#)). Followers of Jesus get to share in His work by bearing good fruit in the world. But no one can bear good fruit on their own. They need Jesus, the giver of life and our source of power. Jesus told His disciples to abide in Him. That means remaining connected to Jesus—staying as close to Him as possible and depending on Him for everything. Jesus said, "If you

Allergy Caution:

Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Teaching Tip:

Explain to kids that Jesus often used word pictures of familiar things to help people understand important truths about Him. When He calls Himself the "vine" and His followers the "branches," He isn't saying we are actually those things. He is saying we have something in common with those things. This is called a metaphor.

Jesus' teaching in [John 15](#) can confuse kids (and adults!). God isn't a genie. The reality is that God doesn't always answer our prayers in the way we want or expect Him to. His good plans for us often look different from our own plans. But we can stay connected to Him through our prayers and trust Him.

remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me" ([John 15:5b](#)).

Refer to the plant again. **As the gardener, sometimes I must cut back parts of this plant so other parts will grow.** Point to the branch/leaf of your plant again. **This branch looks healthy.** Bring out a pair of scissors or pruning shears. **But what would happen to the branch if I cut it off?** Wait for answers. **That's right. It wouldn't stay healthy for long if it wasn't connected to the rest of the plant!**

Bring out a long, thick rope. **Jesus said that He is the vine, and we are the branches. What do we need to do to stay healthy and produce good fruit?** Wait for answers. **That's right! Stay connected to the vine!** Invite a few kids to hold onto the rope. **Stand up straight and tall! Show me what healthy branches look like.** Let kids demonstrate. **Now show me what would happen to branches that aren't attached to the vine!** Let them pretend to fall down—it's OK for them to be dramatic and silly!

People who don't remain connected to Jesus are like branches that get thrown away and dry up. Branches like that are only good for burning. Jesus doesn't want His disciples to be like that. He wants them to always follow His words and stay connected to God by talking to Him and listening to Him.

So let's grab the vine again and be healthy branches! Let the same kids return to the rope/vine and grab on, or if possible, invite all the kids to hold onto the rope and pretend to be strong branches. **When Jesus' disciples stay connected to the vine, they'll know what to ask God, and God will do it. People who bear fruit glorify God by showing others how amazing God is. They show that they are Jesus' disciples.** Invite kids to return to their seats.

Jesus told the disciples that He loved them just as the Father loved Him. Jesus obeyed the Father's commands. The disciples could show their love for Jesus by obeying His commands. He said, "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love" ([John 15:10](#)). Jesus wasn't trying to burden them with silly rules. He knew God's commands lead to joy because life works best when people follow God. **Jesus wanted the disciples to have complete joy.**

Jesus told His disciples: "Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you" ([verse 12](#)). Loving one another like Jesus—giving of yourself for the good of others—leads to joy and helps you stay connected to Jesus. **Staying connected to Jesus is the best way to live.** Invite several more kids—or all of them—to come up quietly and hold onto the rope/vine. **Staying connected to Jesus is how we fit into God's big story. Another word for staying connected is *abiding*. Jesus invites us to abide in Him.**

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **True Vine Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS INVITES US TO ABIDE IN HIM. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

As Jesus-followers, we get to play a part in God's big story! God invites us to bear the good fruit of His kingdom and to show others how amazing He is! We don't have to try to do these things on our own because Jesus is our source of life and love. And He invites us to stay connected to Him!

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- In God's big story today, who did Jesus call the "true vine"? Who did He call the "branches"? (*Jesus is the true vine, and His followers are the branches.*)
- What happens to actual branches when they are cut off from the vine?
- Why do you think it's important for us to stay connected to Jesus?
- What happens in the lives of people who stay connected to Jesus? How can others tell they are connected to Him?
- What are some ways you can stay connected to Jesus?

When we are connected to Jesus and abide in Him, we follow His commands and love others just as He loves us! This leads to amazing joy and, in turn, helps us stay connected to Jesus! Let's spend time connecting to Jesus in prayer.

Make it Inclusive: *Some kids may be new to church and not yet know Jesus personally. You have the privilege of introducing them to the love of Jesus as you lead today. Assure them that God loves them and is always near. They can talk with Him anywhere and at any time.*

Teaching Tip:

If needed, remind kids that the word *abide* means to remain connected. Explain how abiding in Jesus can be similar to branches connecting to their vines.

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Open your prayer time by thanking Jesus for being the true vine and our source of life! Encourage kids to think about how they can stay connected with God no matter where they are. Invite kids to share any praises or prayer requests they may have. Pray for each child by name, and include her specific prayer if possible. Then open it up for any kids who would like to close your prayer time.

I AM THE TRUE VINE

LESSON 3

NAC USA

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- In God's big story today, who did Jesus call the "true vine"? Who did He call the "gardener"? Who are the "branches"? (*Jesus is the true vine, God the Father is the gardener, and Jesus' followers are the branches.*)
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the true vine? For God the Father to be the gardener? For us to be the branches?
- What happens to actual branches when they are cut off from the vine?
- Why do you think it's important for us to abide in (or stay connected to) Jesus?
- People who abide in Jesus produce good fruit—or good things. What are some of these good things? Do you know anyone whose life produces these good things? Tell us about this person.
- What are some ways you can abide in Jesus?

When we abide in Jesus and remain connected to Him, we follow His commands and love others just as He loves us! This leads to amazing joy and, in turn, helps us remain connected to Jesus! Let's spend time connecting to Jesus in prayer.

Make it Inclusive: *Some kids may be new to church and not yet know Jesus personally. You have the privilege of introducing them to the love of Jesus as you lead today. Assure them that God loves them and is always near. They can talk with Him anywhere and at any time.*

Teaching Tip:

If needed, remind kids that the word *abide* means to remain connected. Explain how abiding in Jesus can be similar to branches connecting to their vines.

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Invite kids into a time of prayer. Encourage them to think about the ways they can stay connected to God this week—while they are in school, at home, and with their friends. Encourage kids to share any praises or prayer requests they may have. Then invite them to pray for each other. Close your prayer time by thanking Jesus for being the true vine and our source of life!

Jesus reminded His disciples that one way they could remain connected to Him, or to abide in Him, was to follow His commandments. Who remembers one of the Ten Commandments? Allow the children to share a commandment that they remember and do a choral response of that commandment. Allow as many children as time permits to share a commandment and to engage in a choral response of that commandment. **Wow! You are all doing such a wonderful job staying connected to the "Vine", our Lord Jesus. Knowing and doing His commandments is so important. Jesus tells us when we stay connected to Him, our lives can produce "good fruit" or show others love, kindness, and goodness, which we hope will then draw them into a relationship with our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus.**

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: LEAF ART BREATH PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: cardstock, kid-safe scissors (1 per kid), tissue paper (multiple colors), glue (1 bottle per 2–3 kids), bowls, pencils (1 per kid), scissors (prep only, optional), green or brown butcher or kraft paper (optional), masking tape (optional), **Responding in Worship Slide**, **Leaf Template Sheet** (1 per kid plus 1), **Vine and Branches Slide**, **Breath Prayer Slides**, [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print the **Leaf Template Sheet** on cardstock, one copy per kid plus one to use as an example. If you have limited time for worship response, cut the leaves out ahead of time. Otherwise, plan on providing kid-safe scissors for kids to cut them out themselves. Cut multiple colors of tissue paper into small squares, about 1" x 1" each. You will need enough for all the kids to cover their leaf templates. Place the tissue paper squares into bowls. Consider creating a sample of a completed leaf covered in tissue paper to show kids.

If you plan on having kids attach their leaves to a group vine at the end of the activity, prepare a large paper vine by crunching up brown or green butcher or kraft paper into a rope-like vine and taping it to the wall at kids' height.

Before kids arrive, preview the **Breath Prayer Slides**. Decide which breath prayer(s) you will teach kids, and cue those slides.

Display the **Responding in Worship Slide** and gather kids together. **In God's big story today, Jesus explained to His disciples that He is the true vine, and we are the branches. What an amazing picture to imagine—many, many branches attached to one long, healthy, life-giving vine, like the trunk of a giant tree!** Display the **Vine and Branches Slide**.

Jesus invites us to abide in—or remain connected to—Him. When we abide in Jesus, we become like healthy branches that produce good fruit. Our lives produce good things like kindness, compassion, and love. One way we can remain connected to Jesus is by being aware that He is with us and talking with Him in prayer throughout our day. Let's spend some time now connecting with Jesus, the true vine, by practicing something called breath prayers as we create leaf art.

Hold up a **Leaf Template Sheet** and demonstrate how kids will glue tissue paper squares onto their leaves, or show them the completed sample leaf art. Give each kid a **Leaf Template Sheet**, a pencil, and kid-safe scissors or a precut leaf. Set bowls of tissue paper squares and glue bottles throughout your space. Ask kids not to touch the supplies until you tell them to do so.

Teaching Tip:

For Younger Kids:
You may want to precut leaves for the younger kids in your group.

I AM THE TRUE VINE LESSON 3

NAC USA
Goals and Objectives
[IA 3-5, 7-9, 13-15, 17-19, 23-25, 27-29](#) **IB 1, 3, 5**
[IC 1-13](#) **ID 1, 3, 5** **IE 1-3**
[IIA 3, 6, 10](#) **IIIA 1-3**

WONDER TRUTH:
Jesus Invites Us to Abide in Him

SCRIPTURE:
[John 15](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:
Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to teach His disciples how important it is to stay connected to God. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, and Jesus invites us to abide in Him.

WORD OF WONDER:
[John 8:12](#)

I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

ELEMENTARY

Display one of the **Breath Prayer Slides** (1, 2, 3). **A breath prayer is a word or phrase we repeat in a single breath. We say one part quietly as we breathe in.** Demonstrate saying the first part of the prayer as you inhale. **And we say the next part as we breathe out.** Demonstrate saying the second part of the prayer as you exhale. **Breath prayers help us focus on God and His presence with us. Each time you glue a tissue paper on your leaf, I invite you to say this breath prayer.**

Encourage kids to write their names on the back of their leaves and to begin gluing tissue paper squares to the front as they quietly repeat the breath prayer each time. If you did not pre-cut the leaves, ask kids to cut their leaves out before they start gluing. Consider playing music from the [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) softly in the background as kids work and pray

The **Breath Prayer Slides** include three breath prayers. You can have kids repeat the same prayer throughout the activity, or you can switch the slides every one or two minutes and teach the kids multiple prayers. Feel free to use the prayers provided or to write your own! The slides include these breath prayers:

Breathe in: Jesus, You are the vine ...

Breathe out: I am the branch.

Breathe in: Jesus, You are the vine ...

Breathe out: thank You for life.

Breathe in: Jesus, You are the vine ...

Breathe out: help me abide in You.

If you prepared a large paper vine on the wall, invite kids to attach their finished leaves to the vine with tape. Explain that this symbolizes how they are like branches connected to Jesus, the true vine, and encourage them to repeat a breath prayer as they tape their leaves to the vine. If you don't have a paper vine, encourage kids to take their leaves home as a reminder that Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches.

Make it Inclusive: *Some kids may struggle to glue small tissue paper squares to their leaves or dislike the sticky texture of glue. Provide coloring utensils, such as jumbo crayons, so kids can color their leaves instead. Or print copies of the [I Am the True Vine Coloring Sheet](#) and encourage kids to say the breath prayer each time they pick up a crayon of a different color.*

Softly play "Waymaker" or other songs from the [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Open with a short prayer of invitation, such as this: **Father God, thank You for Jesus. Help us focus on Him as we find our way to You.** Allow time and space for kids to respond as they feel led, moving along the path and stopping to pray. When kids complete the prayer path, encourage them to spend time worshiping through song, dance, and prayer.

Disclaimer: *We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.*

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Display the **True Vine Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: **Jesus is the true vine and the source of life, and He invites you to abide in Him! May you be aware every day and in all places that God is with you. May you remain connected to Jesus and let His love and joy cover you all the days of your life!**