



**Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for February 25, 2007  
Released on Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

**“Jesus: The True Vine”**

**Lesson Text: John 15:1–17.**

**Golden Text: “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5).**

**John 15:1–17**

- 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.
- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
- 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
- 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.
- 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.
- 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
- 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.
- 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
- 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

In this passage, Jesus discussed fruitfulness. How can our lives bring forth good fruit? He likened Himself to a vine and His people to the branches. The fruit grows on the branches, but the branches cannot bring forth fruit unless they stay in constant contact with the vine, letting the life of the vine flow to them, nourish them, and enable them. A fruitful life must be rooted in Christ.

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that Jesus can make our lives fruitful when we keep trusting and obeying Him.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

- 1 .We cannot live fruitful lives on our own.
- 2 .We must stay close to Jesus, like branches that stay connected to the vine.
3. Jesus can make our lives fruitful when we keep trusting and obeying Him.

### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Beginning the Lesson, bring a cluster of real grapes (don't eat them before class)

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For Helping to Remember, bring a light-colored piece of construction paper and ten 2-inch purple circles for each student. Also bring black fine-line markers (water), crayons, and glue.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Jackie had never attended Sunday school. She had heard the name "Jesus" used most often when someone was cursing or angry. She did not believe in Jesus, but she had been thinking about Him. That was because her neighbors Jordan and Hannah talked about Him a lot. Jackie could tell there was something different about Jordan and Hannah. Their lives seemed so full of love, joy, and peace. Jackie wondered what was different about them. One day she asked Hannah about it. Was she surprised at what Hannah did next! Hannah went to the kitchen and brought back a plate holding a big bunch of grapes! (Show grapes.)

Hannah said that love, joy, peace, and things like that were called fruit in the Bible. If your life shows those kinds of things, you have a fruitful life.

Hannah picked up the bunch of grapes. "Do you think they grew like this?" she asked.

Jackie knew that grapes grow on a vine. They cannot just grow by themselves. Jackie got that idea from her teacher at school.

### **TELLING THE LESSON**

Jesus said He was the true Vine. His Father was the one who took care of the grape plants. We are like the branches of the grape plant. Someone who owns a grapevine wants it to bear a lot of fruit. God also wants our lives to bear much fruit. In the Bible, fruit is spoken of as good ways of living—things like love, joy, and peace. When our lives are filled with good things like these, it shows we are really followers of Jesus.

Jesus wants us to stay close to Him. As we do, our lives will be filled with love, joy, peace, and other good things. We cannot get love on our own. We cannot find joy and peace without staying close to Jesus.

If we stay close to Jesus, God will also answer our prayers. He will guide us to know what to pray, and then He will do what we ask. We will be able to show God's love to others. We will be true friends of Jesus. Our lives will be filled with these good things—not just for a few days but forever.

## TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Since most of us do not live in farming communities, the biblical references to farming can sometimes be a bit difficult to grasp. However, that should not be the case in this lesson. Everyone understands that plants need food and water to grow.

Staying close to Jesus means loving Him most of all. How can we do that? It helps to be faithful in coming to hear His Word. It helps to pray every day. It helps to confess our sins as soon as we realize we have done wrong.

We cannot do anything good without Jesus' help. Let us ask Jesus to help us stay close to Him.

## HELPING TO REMEMBER

Add "True Vine" to the poster.

Let the children write one of the fruits of the Spirit on each circle (see Galatians 5:22-23). They can then glue the circles on the paper to form a cluster of grapes and draw a stem. At the bottom of the paper they can print "Jesus said, 'I am the vine ... without me ye can do nothing' (John 15:5)."

## EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

**"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).**

Jesus said He is like a grapevine. The vine goes down into the ground and brings up water and food to help the branches grow. The branches are attached to the vine. They grow out of the vine. As long as they stay on the vine, the life of the vine feeds them. Water and food flow to them and help them produce fruit.

The branches cannot grow fruit all by themselves. They cannot just lie on the ground and grow fruit on their own. They can grow fruit only when they get water and food from the vine.

We are like branches. God intends for us to bear much fruit. He wants good things for us, but we cannot produce those good things on our own. For example, we cannot become loving without the love of Jesus in our hearts.

Jesus wants us to stay very close to Him. That is what He meant by abiding in Him. The Christian life cannot be lived on our own. God wants us to always trust Him and obey Him. He wants us to love Him most of all. He can bring those good things into our lives. He can fill us with love, joy, peace, and other good things.

Many people get mixed up. They want the good things Jesus can give, but they try to get them on their own. They try and try. Jesus said this will not work. Without Him, we can do nothing, but with Him, we can do anything He wants us to do.

**Lesson Activity:**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:**

1. "I am the (**TRUE, GRAPE**) vine, and My Father is the husbandman." **JOHN 15:1**
2. "Every branch in Me that does not bear (**LEAVES, FRUIT**) He takes away." **JOHN 15:2**

**Jesus said...  
TRUE OR FALSE:**

3. "Abide in Me, and I in you..." **JOHN 15:4**  
**TRUE OR FALSE**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

4. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do (**NOTHING, EVERYTHING**)." **JOHN 15:5**

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

5. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered..." **JOHN 15:6**  
**TRUE OR FALSE**

6. "...and they gather them and throw them in the fire, and they are burned." **JOHN 15:6**  
**TRUE OR FALSE**

7. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit." **JOHN 15:8**  
**TRUE OR FALSE**

**FILL IN THE BLANK:**

8. "...so you will be My \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 15:8**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

9. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be (**FULL, GONE**)." **JOHN 15:11**

**Cross Word Puzzle:**

**THE TRUE VINE  
(JOHN 15:1-11)**

A N I A M E R O B P Y I D G L  
W E B B Z A J F S B P E N I V  
B P B Y O J Q V V H U B R Z L  
P F R U I T R B O J C R C J M  
F Z D E R E H T I W Z N N P S  
E A Q E Z J E S U S W G A E Z  
A C T F B R L V J G B Y G R D  
B C J H C P S M E E M P R N B  
I S T N E M D N A M M O C U B  
D Q B J T R T A A U E U R T P  
E I B T I I F Z W W W Y G O G  
S W R E O Q A S L S E N U R P  
V I N E D R E S S E R E R I F  
G Z B J T D Y H Z D U B N F B  
D N A E L C Y M B W F W O R D

**ABIDE, FIRE, TRUE, BRANCH, FRUIT, VINEDRESSER,**

**BURNED, JOY, VINE, CLEAN, WITHERED,**

**COMMANDMENTS, REMAIN, WORD, FATHER, JESUS**