

Christ Church Kid's Lesson
John 15:1-11

I AM THE TRUE VINE



Youtube video link: <https://youtu.be/btojLhvXzUc>

The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “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. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Let’s break this down -

Grapevine - Jesus says in verse one that he is the true grapevine. Chances are, not too many of us have much experience with grapevines. People in Jesus' time would have been very familiar with grapevines. They grew everywhere. When Jesus says he is the vine, we can also picture a tree. Jesus is the trunk of that tree, and the roots that go deep down into the ground. All of the branches are connected to the tree, or the grapevine. The branches cannot produce leaves and fruit by themselves. If you break a branch off an apple tree and keep it in your room, are apples going to grow off that branch? Of course not! The branch cannot grow fruit unless it is attached to the tree trunk. Grapes don't grow unless the branch is attached to the grapevine.
So Jesus is the grapevine.

Branches - Who do you think the branches are in this illustration? That's right, we are the branches. We can only grow and bear fruit when we are attached to Jesus. The grape branch will die if it gets cut off from the vine. We have to stay attached to Jesus in order to grow. So Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We need to remain in, cling close to Jesus, in order to grow as Christians. Without Jesus, we die spiritually. If we want to go to heaven and spend all of forever with Jesus, we have to stick with him. The branches need the vine to survive, but the vine does not need to branches to survive.

Fruit - Jesus says in this passage that we can only produce fruit when we remain in him. What fruit is he talking about? All in all, fruit is basically good stuff. Fruit is tasty, isn't it? Fruit makes a great breakfast, dessert, or midday snack. It's sweet and juicy and there are all kinds. Fruit is good for you. So I think fruit is the good stuff that comes out of your life when you follow, remain in, and cling to Jesus.

Let's look at some good fruits the Bible talks about in Galatians 5:22-23. "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" This makes a good sort of checklist for us. It can help us to see if we are remaining close to the true grapevine. We

can look at our lives, check our actions, words and thoughts and decide if we are showing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in the things we say, think and do.

Jesus is the true vine. We remain in him by obeying his commands and loving him. The true vine provides us with what we need to live fruitful lives. Jesus helps us to grow when we stay connected to him.