

Week 4: It's a God Thing

Lesson Overview:

Bible Story: "The Vine and the Branches & The Peace of God" - John 15:4-5 and Philippians 4:6-7


Today's Point: I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him.


Gospel Connection: Like branches to a vine, we find our strength in Jesus. Our friendship with God comes from his goodness, not what we deserve on our own.

Lesson Story Video:

 [I AM the true vine Childrens Talk](#)

January Songs:

 [Give All Your Worries to God \(1 Peter 5:7\) | HLA Athens VBS | Group ...](#)

 [Won't Worry 'Bout A Thing | Shipwrecked VBS | Group Publishing](#)

Schedule:

Warm Up Question (3 min.):

What is something that you would not like to be tied to with a rope?
What is something that you would like to be tied to with a rope?

Review Classroom Rules (3 min.)

Review giving and collect offerings (2 min.)

Review point and Key verse: (5 min.)

Today's Point: I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:26 (NLT) Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

Introduction Game - Stay Connected (5 min.)

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Music player for musical chairs

Chairs (one less than the number of children playing)

TEACHER: Hello, everyone! Welcome back to our final week of the BEST YEAR EVER curriculum. As we've been learning, every day with Jesus can turn the ordinary into something extraordinary. Today's point is: "I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him."

Today, we'll start with a fun game that will help us think about staying connected to Jesus, just like branches are connected to a vine.

In this version of musical chairs, each chair represents staying connected to Jesus through different activities like prayer, reading the Bible, or helping others. **When the music stops, find a chair and share a quick thought on how that activity helps you stay connected to Jesus.**

Examples: reading the Bible, praying, singing worship songs, showing kindness to others, and coming to church.

Object Lesson - Opening Our Time Capsule (5 min.)

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Previously created personal time capsules (from Week 1 of this series) ● Additional sheets of paper (for reflections or new goals)
- Pens or markers

TEACHER: It's only been a month since we placed our goals and hopes into our time capsules. Today, as we open them, we'll see how we've started to work towards these goals and how God is helping us. This ties into our lesson from Week 4: "It's a God Thing."

We're learning that staying connected to Jesus helps us find real peace and become more like Him. Just as branches are connected to the vine, we grow and thrive when we stay connected to Jesus. Even when we feel like our growth is slow, we can trust that God is working every day to make us more like Jesus.

1. **Gather Your Time Capsules:** Please bring your time capsules to the front. It's time to revisit the commitments and goals you set.
2. **Open Your Capsule:** Carefully open your capsule and take out what you wrote last month.
3. **Review and Reflect:** Look at each goal and think about the following:
 - What actions have you taken toward these goals in the past month?
 - How do you see the connection to Jesus helping you in these efforts?
 - Are there new challenges or insights you've encountered that require God's guidance?
4. **Share and Discuss:** Let's share our experiences. Discuss any progress or challenges and reflect on how staying connected to Jesus has influenced your journey.
5. **Update Your Goals:** Use a new sheet of paper to write down any adjustments to your goals or add new ones. Consider how you can continue to rely on Jesus as you pursue these goals.

6. Group Prayer: We'll conclude with a prayer. Thank God for His presence in our lives and ask for continued guidance and strength as we pursue our goals, staying connected to Him like branches to a vine.

TEACHER: Remember, every step we take towards our goals with Jesus makes a difference. It's a God Thing—staying connected to Him transforms how we approach every aspect of our lives. Let's encourage each other to keep this connection strong and see how God will work in and through us as we move forward.

Bible Story - The Vine and the Branches (15 min.)

TEACHER: Let's think about a tree for a moment. Have you ever seen a branch that's fallen off a tree? What happens to it? It dries up and dies, doesn't it? That's because it's no longer connected to the tree that gives it life. Today, we will learn how important it is to stay connected to Jesus, just like branches need to stay connected to a tree.

Today's point reminds us that we can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him.

The Bible passages we're going to read today come from two different books. The first is from the Gospel of John, which was written by one of Jesus' closest friends. John wanted to help people understand who Jesus really was and how to have a relationship with Him. The second passage is from a letter written by Paul to the Philippi church. Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison, to encourage the Christians there and teach them how to live for Jesus.

Show Lesson Video

READ: John 15:4-5 Jesus is using a word picture here to help us understand something very important. He's comparing Himself to a vine, which is like the main part of a plant, and He's comparing us to branches. Just like branches need to stay connected to the vine to live and grow, we need to stay connected to Jesus.

- What do you think it means to "remain" in Jesus? It's like staying close to Him every day - talking to Him in prayer, reading His words in the Bible, and trying to live like He teaches us.

When we do this, Jesus says we'll "bear much fruit." This doesn't mean we'll grow apples or oranges! It means our lives will show good things that come from being close to Jesus, like kindness, love, and peace.

READ: Philippians 4:6-7

Have you ever been worried or scared? We all feel that way sometimes. But Paul is telling us here that instead of worrying, we can talk to God about everything that's bothering us. When we do this, God promises to give us His peace - a special kind of calmness that helps us even when things around us are difficult.

This peace that God gives is so amazing that Paul says it's beyond our understanding. It's not something we can explain easily, but we can experience it when we trust in God and stay connected to Jesus.

Remember how we talked about branches staying connected to the vine? When we stay connected to Jesus by talking to Him about our worries and trusting Him, we receive His peace. It's like the life-giving sap that flows from a vine to its branches, helping them grow strong and healthy.

LESSON SUMMARY: Today, we've learned that staying connected to Jesus is crucial for our spiritual lives. Just as branches need to stay attached to the vine to live and grow, we need to stay close to Jesus every day. When we do this, we find real peace - even when life is hard - and we become more like Jesus. Remember our main idea: I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: The wonderful thing about our relationship with Jesus is that it's not based on how good we are or what we can do. Jesus, the true vine, offers us life and peace simply because He loves us. We don't earn His love or our place as His branches - He freely gives it to us when we put our faith in Him. Just like a branch doesn't have to struggle to stay connected to the vine, we don't have to struggle to earn God's love. We simply need to trust in Jesus and accept the life and peace He offers us.

Review the ABC's of Salvation

Discussion Questions & Prayer

TEACHER: You all did such a fantastic job today listening and participating in our story about Jesus the Vine. Let's remember Today's Point: "I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him." Now, let's dive a little deeper with some questions.

Discussion questions:

1. What does it mean to stay connected to Jesus like a branch is connected to a vine? Can you think of ways we can stay connected to Him every day?
2. Why do you think a branch can't grow fruit by itself? How does that help us understand our relationship with Jesus?
3. What are some things that might stop us from staying connected to Jesus? How can we avoid or overcome these things?

Prayer Requests:

Craft Activity - Fruit of the Spirit Tree



(10 min.)

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Construction paper (various colors) Scissors
Glue
Markers or crayons
A large piece of poster board or cardboard

TEACHER: Today, we learned, "I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him."

To help us remember this, we will make a Fruit of the Spirit Tree craft. This tree will remind us of the fruits we grow when we stay connected to Jesus, like love, joy, peace, and kindness.

1. First, use the green construction paper to cut out a large tree shape—make sure it has plenty of branches!
2. Next, from different colored papers, cut out fruit shapes. These can be circles, stars, or even heart shapes.
3. On each fruit, write a word that represents the fruits of the Spirit, such as Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.
4. Glue your tree onto the large piece of poster board or cardboard.
5. Then, glue the fruits onto the tree branches. Arrange them nicely so every fruit is visible.
6. Finally, use markers or crayons to add any additional decorations or words to your tree.

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Questions to Discuss with Your Child:

1. What does it mean to stay connected to Jesus like a branch is connected to a vine? Can you think of ways we can stay connected to Him every day?
2. Why do you think a branch can't grow fruit by itself? How does that help us understand our relationship with Jesus?
3. What are some things that might stop us from staying connected to Jesus? How can we avoid or overcome these things?

