



Week 4 - I Can Stay Close to Jesus

Lesson Overview

Bible Story: The Vine and the Branches (John 15:4-5)

Today's Point: I Can Stay Close to Jesus

Summary: In the final lesson, we'll explore fun vine-themed activities, collaborative games, and colorful art projects as we learn how staying close to Jesus, our vine, helps us grow and share His goodness with others. The little ones will love creating their own "vine" and "fruit" artwork.

Video Bible Story: [▶ Jesus, the True Vine | Slapstick Theater](#)

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

Arrival and Guided Play (5-10 minutes)

Here are suggestions for arrival activities that introduce today's point: **I can stay close to Jesus every day.**

Suggested Toys & Talking Points:

- **Toy Vine or Strings** - Let's use these vines to connect all the branches. Just like the vine keeps the branches strong, Jesus keeps us close and strong.
- **Building Blocks** - Let's build a tree with branches! Jesus says He is like the vine, and we are the branches.
- **Paper and Crayons** - Let's draw pictures of trees and vines. Remember, Jesus helps us grow like branches on a vine.

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 stay close to Jesus everyday.

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

Transition to Group Games - Let's pretend to be growing branches and stretch toward the circle where we'll play a fun game!

Group Games (5 minutes) Hold on to the Vine

SUPPLIES NEEDED: A long piece of string, rope, or ribbon (enough for all children to hold onto)

SETUP: Lay the string or rope on the floor in a slightly curved path.

TEACHER: Alright, friends, let's play a game. (Hold up the string.) This string is our pretend vine. Jesus says we are like branches, and He is the vine that helps us grow strong and stay connected.

(Hand the string to the first child.) Everyone, take hold of the vine. Don't let go! Let's walk together along the path without letting go of the vine. We're going to move carefully and help each other stay connected.

(Start leading the children along the string.) Look at how strong our vine is when we're all holding on! Jesus keeps us connected, just like this vine. Let's say, "Stay close to Jesus!" (Encourage children to repeat.)

(After the game, gather the children.) Great job, everyone! Let's tiptoe like quiet little branches over to the singing area and get ready to sing about how much Jesus loves us.

Song Time (6 minutes)

Transition to Bible Story Time - Let's use our quiet voices and tiptoe to the story area, where we'll hear a special Bible story about staying close to Jesus!

Bible Story (10 minutes) The Vine and the Branches

Bible Reference: John 15:4-5

Today's Point: I Can Stay Close to Jesus

Show Lesson Video

TEACHER: (Friendly and welcoming tone.) Alright, friends, let's get ready to hear a very special story from the Bible! Everyone, sit crisscross applesauce and put on your listening ears. (Cup hands around ears dramatically.)

(Long pause to ensure the children are ready.)

Today, Jesus is going to teach us something important. He said, "I am the vine, and you are the branches." (Hold up: Visual - Growing Like a Plant.)

Jesus knows you are not plants - but we can learn something important if we pretend to be like a plant. All the flowers and fruit that come from a plant grow together. Look at this plant.

- Do you see how all the branches are connected to it? If a branch stays connected, it can grow fruit and be strong.
- But if a branch falls off, can it keep growing? (Pause for responses.) That's right, it can't! It needs to stay connected to the vine.

(Hold up: Visual - Vine and Branches) We are like these branches, and Jesus is like the vine. When we stay close to Jesus, He helps us grow and be strong. He helps us love others and make good choices.

Jesus said, 'If you stay close to me, you will be like a good branch with lots of good fruit.' When we are close to Jesus, He helps us be kind and loving to others."

Let's all pretend we're branches growing on a vine! Stretch your arms out wide like a branch and wiggle your fingers like leaves. (Encourage participation.)

(Hold up: Visual - Good Things Come from Jesus) If we want to stay close to Jesus, we can pray, sing, and listen to stories about Him. Jesus loves us so much and wants us to be strong branches on His vine!

Now, let's say it together: "I Can Stay Close to Jesus!" (Repeat with enthusiasm.)

Review ABC's of Salvation

PRAYER TIME

Review Bible verse. (5 min.) Allow students to try to say it by themselves so that they can earn their prize.

Transition to Craft Time - Let's stretch our branches and sway like the wind as we move to the table for a fun craft!

Craft (10 minutes) Vine and Branches Collage

SAFETY NOTE: Always supervise use of scissors and small items. Pre-cut materials for younger children if needed.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Glue sticks
- Scissors (for teacher to pre-cut shapes)
- Green construction paper (for vines and leaves)
- Purple construction paper or small pom-poms (for fruits)
- White construction paper (one sheet per child)



TEACHER: Let's make a beautiful collage to remind us to stay close to Jesus, just like branches stay connected to the vine. (Hand out the white construction paper.) This is where we'll create our vine and branches. First, I'll give you some green paper strips to be our vines. Let's glue them down to make wavy lines like a real vine.

(Now hand out pre-cut leaves or help children cut them.) Next, we'll add leaves to our vine. Can you glue the leaves along the vines? Great job!

(Hand out small purple pom-poms or paper shapes.) Now, let's add some fruit! These little purple circles can be our fruit. Let's stick them to the branches to show how Jesus helps us grow good things when we stay close to Him.

(Look at the finished artwork together.) Wow! Look at all your beautiful vines and branches. Remember, just like these branches, we grow and stay strong when we stay close to Jesus.

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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?

