



Connect with Christ

Parents: The verses from John 15:1-9 paint a beautiful picture of our relationship with God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son. All ages can visualize how a fruit bearing branch has to be attached to a strong vine to thrive. Let's teach our kids the truth we learn in this passage—when we connect with Jesus we will experience what God wants for our lives.

Read: John 15: 1-9 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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.

“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. 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

Discuss: Have you seen a gardener before? What types of things do they do? *Gardeners plant, water, give nutrients, and prune which means to get rid of the parts of the plant or tree that aren't needed.*

In the passage, who is the true vine? *Jesus.* Who is the gardener? *God.* Who is the branch that bears fruit? *Us, Christians.*

Do the branches need to be connected to the vine to bear fruit? *Why? Yes, because the vine gives the branches nutrients, water, and strength.* How can we stay connected to Jesus? *Pray, read God's Word, worship and fellowship with other Christians, etc.*

If we are a branch what kind of fruit can we bear, or produce? *When connected to the Vine, Jesus, we can display the Fruits of the Spirit.* What are the Fruits of the Spirit? *They are love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control.*

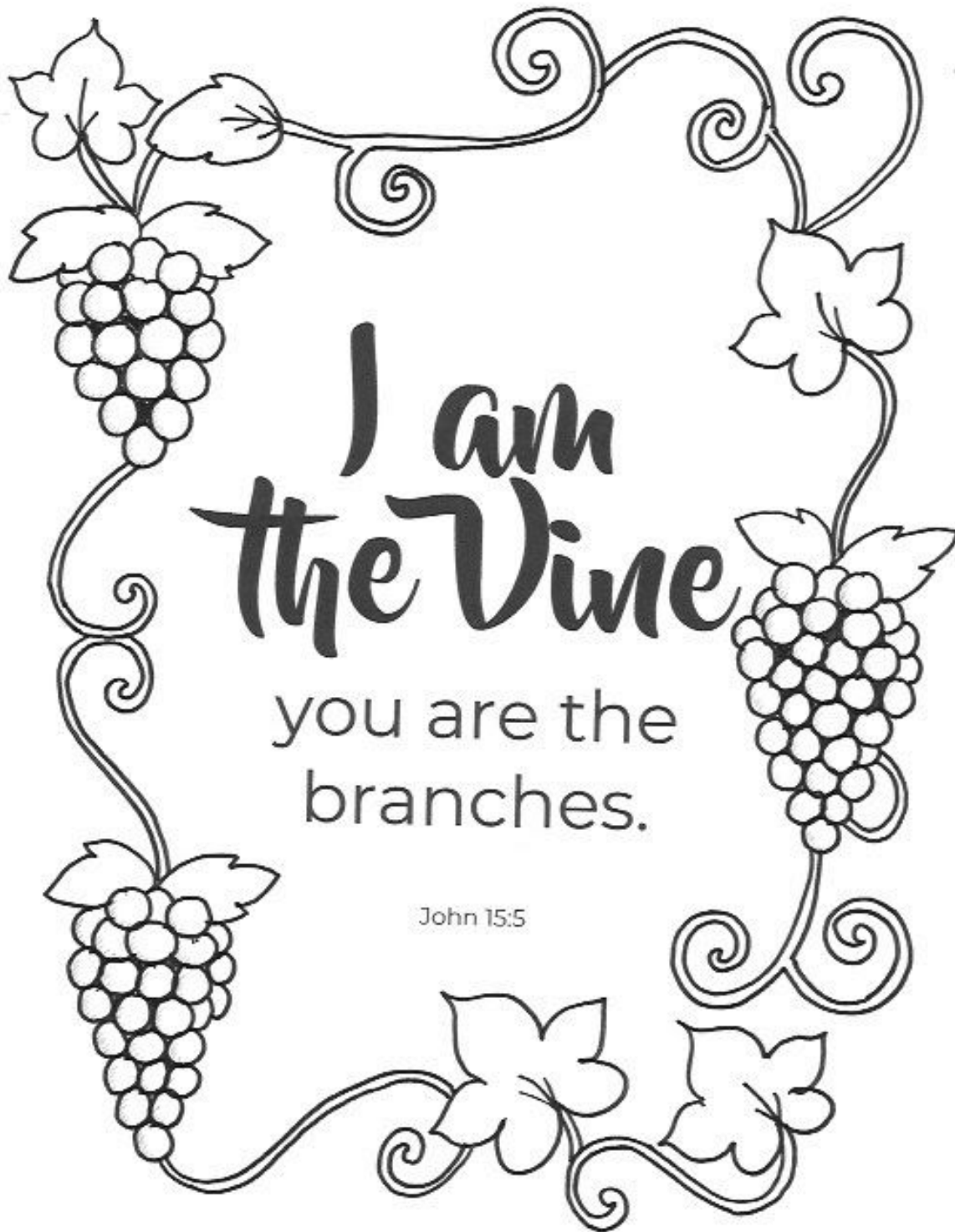
Key Point: Stay Connected to Jesus

Stay Connected (Link pointer fingertips and pull in opposite directions)
To Jesus (Point finger to middle of opposite palm)

Family Activity: Let's focus on the idea that when we are connected to Jesus Christ, we can be like a grape branch. Instead of growing grapes, we bear Fruits of the Spirit (love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, self-control). While coloring the page or designing the craft, name people in your life that show one of the Fruits of the Spirit. If you'd like to take it one step further, reach out and let them know about it.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for your love. You sent Jesus to save us. Help us always stay connected to You. Give us time each day to read your Word. Fill us with the fruits of the Spirit so we can show others your amazing love. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize John 15:5. I (Jesus) am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



I am
the Vine

you are the
branches.

John 15:5