

LESSON 3

I AM THE TRUE VINE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Invites Us to Be Connected to Him

SCRIPTURE: John 15

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to teach His disciples how important it is to stay connected to God. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, and Jesus invites us to abide in Him.

Activity: Leaves and Fruit Matching

Activity: Branch Sensory Bin

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Vine March

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Leaves and Fruit Matching

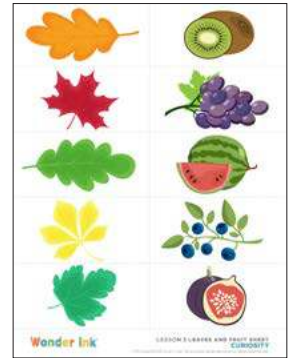
SUPPLIES: buckets (10), scissors (prep only), tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Leaves and Fruit Sheet (at least 2 copies)

Print at least two copies of the Leaves and Fruit Sheet. Cut along the dotted lines to make individual pictures. Tape one picture to each bucket. Scatter the rest of the pictures around the room.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I am so glad you are here today! I have some pictures of leaves and fruits that match the pictures on the buckets. Can you help me put the pictures in the matching buckets? This will help us to think about what we're learning today in our story!



Encourage the kids to pick up and examine the pictures. Help them find the matching buckets for each picture and place the leaves and fruits into the corresponding buckets.

Activity: Branch Sensory Bin

SUPPLIES: bin, branches, dry leaves, dry flowers, dirt, potted plant (real or fake)

Set out a bin filled with branches, leaves, and flowers, and a potted plant (real or fake). **Today we'll learn that Jesus is like a vine and we are like His branches. Let's explore what branches feel like!**

Encourage kids to experience the sensory bin. Then invite them to gather around you and the potted plant.

Leader Tip: Die-cut paper fruit and leaves work just as well to fill the sensory bin.

Let the kids play with and explore the items in the bin. **How fun! When branches are connected to trees, they grow fruit and leaves and flowers. This plant also has leaves. The leaves are healthy and growing because they are connected to the plant. Today, we'll hear how Jesus invites us to be connected to Him.**

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS INVITES US TO BE CONNECTED TO HIM.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS INVITES US—Circle your arms in a “come here” motion.

TO BE CONNECTED—Wrap your arms around yourself.

TO HIM.—Point up.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [I AMs of Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning how Jesus invites us to be connected to Him. We'll learn in God's big story how God invites us to be close to the true vine, Jesus!

Play songs from the [I AMs of Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, rope

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a time when Jesus told His followers another name for Himself: the true vine. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

Place the rope where you can access it easily.

Jesus did lots of amazing things when He was on earth doing God's work. Jesus told His followers about vines and branches and how important it is to stay connected to God.

There are vines that grow fruit in places called vineyards. Gardeners take care of the vines and make sure they grow good fruit. Yum!

"I am the true vine," Jesus told His disciples. "My Father is the gardener" (John 15:1). Jesus was letting them know that life comes from Him. God helps people live His way. God the Father is the gardener who takes care of the vine and the branches.

Bring out a long rope. **Jesus said that He is the vine, and we are the branches. God knows we are happiest when we stay connected to the vine!** Invite kids to stand up and hold onto the rope. **Stand up straight and tall! Show me what healthy branches look like.** Let kids demonstrate, then sit back down.

God helps you stay connected to Jesus. And staying connected to Jesus is the best way to live. It's how we fit into God's big story. Jesus invites us to be connected to Him.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for helping us stay connected to Jesus. Just like leaves and branches live best when connected to their plants, we know we live the best life when we stay connected to Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May Jesus keep you and hold you close. May you grow good fruit as you live for Jesus.

Activity: Vine March

SUPPLIES: long rope

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from the [I AMs of Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

I am grateful God helps us stay close to and connected with Jesus, the true vine! Let's play a game to remind us how Jesus invites us to be connected to Him. Hold up the rope. **To pretend we are branches, hold onto the rope, which we're pretending is a vine. See if you can hold onto the vine as we march around the room!**

Lead kids on a silly follow-the-leader march around the room. You can play music from the [I AMs of Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) while playing the game.