



I AM THE VINE

JOHN 15:1-17

GOAL

To teach children that just as a branch cannot grow without being attached to the vine, we cannot prosper, flourish, and carry out God's purpose for our lives without Jesus.

WORDS TO KNOW

Abide: to obey, act in accordance with, or follow.

MEMORY VERSES

John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

OVERVIEW

Read John 15:1-17: Jesus teaches a group of people the importance of maintaining a relationship with Him by comparing Himself to a vine, the people as branches off the vine, and God as the gardener. He explained that to bear fruit and flourish in this life, a person must be connected to Him, the source of life and blessing. To stay connected to Him, Jesus explained that we must obey His commandments: Love each other as He loves us.



SUGGESTIONS

In this story, Jesus explains a complex concept to people by comparing the idea to something that was commonly understood: farming.

- 1. Growth:** Just as branches of a tree or any other crop cannot live or grow if it is not connected to the main plant, a person cannot live or carry out his or her full potential apart from God.
- 2. Love:** Maintaining a connection and relationship with Jesus enables us to live full, fruitful lives. We stay connected to Jesus by showing our love for Him. Jesus says that we can show our love for Him by obeying His commands.
- 3. Obedience:** Jesus commands us to love each other the way He loves us. He goes on to say that this form of love often calls us to sacrifice something of our own to help someone else in need. By ensuring that everyone has what they need, we are showing Jesus that we love Him and that we are grateful to Him for giving us life and sustaining us.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Ages 5-10 Fruit, Fruit, No Fruit

Choose one student to act as the Gardener, and have the rest of the students sit in a circle on the floor. Play Duck, Duck Goose, but ask the Gardener to use the words Fruit, Fruit, No Fruit instead. Students the Gardener taps and says, "Fruit," remain seated. Students the Gardener taps and says, "No Fruit," must jump up and try to catch the Gardener before he or she reaches the student's now empty seat. If the student doesn't catch the Gardener, he or she becomes the new Gardener. Continue the game until everyone has had a chance to be the Gardener or until the class needs to move on.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: How would Jesus often teach people while He was on Earth?

A1: Jesus would often teach people through parables and examples of things that occur in nature.

Q1b: Can you teach a newborn baby to walk?

TN: No, newborn babies need time to develop muscle so they can carry their own weight. While Jesus was on Earth, He had so much information that He needed to share with us, but our limited ability to understand the concepts He was imparting to us was a roadblock. Jesus, being the perfect teacher, knows how to meet us where we are in our ability to understand. He presented these complex concepts to us in small, manageable pieces. It was in this way that Jesus taught us about Himself, His Father, and their deep, unyielding love for us.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What happens to branches that do not bear fruit?

A2: Branches that do not bear fruit are cut off and thrown away.

Q2b: Can a seed grow without anyone to care for it?

TN: Yes, a seed can grow without anyone caring for it; however, a plant cannot bear its best fruit without the help of a skillful gardener. In the same way God works in our lives to bring about growth and the fruit of good works.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: A branch not attached to a vine cannot do what?

A3: A branch not attached to a vine cannot grow or bear fruit.

SLIDE 4



Q4b: The straw in your fruit smoothie is blocked by a big piece of strawberry. Can you still drink it through the straw?

TN: No, if one end of the straw is blocked, nothing is going to come through it. Even though the straw is in the cup with the smoothie, the strawberry is blocking our connection to the smoothie. In order to keep drinking the smoothie through the straw, we would have to dislodge the strawberry. Branches are connected to the vine, but if they are not drawing from the vine, they will not flourish. The same is true of us. Jesus will never leave us, but we need to make an effort to keep our connection strong. If we do not draw on Jesus, we will not flourish. Often things in life come up that seem important and draw our attention away from Jesus. These things can sometimes block our connection to the vine, just like the strawberry stuck in the straw. It is up to us to keep our connection to Jesus strong and unclogged.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What are the keys to staying connected?

A5: The keys to staying connected are love and obedience.

Q5b: Can you hug someone while crossing your arms across your chest?

TN: No, to hug someone properly, we have to have our arms open wide. If someone hugs us and we have our arms crossed, we are showing that we are not receiving the loving gesture they are offering. To have a strong connection to Jesus, we need to receive His love with open arms. This means working to maintain our relationship with Him and obeying His commands.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What did Jesus command us to do?

A6: Jesus commands that we love each other the way He loves us.

Q6b: Can you complete a puzzle if some of the pieces are missing?

TN: No, a puzzle cannot be completed without all the pieces. Sometimes, we experience times in our lives when we don't have everything we need in life to succeed and move forward. It is in these times that we can see God work in our lives. When we are connected to Jesus, He gives us everything we need to survive and prosper. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, meaning that through Jesus, we are connected to all other believers. Jesus knows our needs, and He knows what others have. Through the Holy Spirit, He urges the people who have to give to those who are in need. By giving what we have to help others, we are showing Jesus how much we love Him and how grateful we are for everything He gives us. So, without Jesus, we cannot complete a puzzle if some of the pieces are missing, but with Jesus, it is possible. With Jesus, everything is possible.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What does Jesus call those who obey ^{His} command?

A7: Jesus calls those who obey His command His friends.

Q7b: Does Jesus love us only if we obey Him?

TN: Jesus loves us no matter what we do. There is absolutely nothing we can do that will ever make Jesus not love us. It is important to understand that even if we follow every rule and obey every command, Jesus will not love us any more than He already does. We cannot earn His love or the salvation we find in Him. He calls those who obey His commands His friends because they are working to advance His mission of love. We make mistakes, but Jesus will always be there to help us get back up again and make better choices in the future. He will never leave us or stop loving us.



QUESTION & ANSWER

John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

MEMORY
VERSES

BIG IDEA

CLOSING
PRAYER

Without Jesus, we cannot grow or flourish. With Jesus, we are blessed and called His friends.

Father God, thank You for giving us life and for blessing us so abundantly. Help us to stay connected to You, as You are what sustains our lives and helps us to bear fruit. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

"I AM" THE VINE CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY

Across

- Without a connection to Jesus, it is not possible for us to **(Prosper)**.
- Branches that do not grow **(Fruit)** are cut off and thrown away.
- The keys to staying connected to Jesus are love and **(Obedience)**.

Down

- Jesus calls those who obey his commands His **(Friends)**.
- Jesus showed His love for us by coming to serve and through **(Sacrifice)**.
- Jesus often taught using **(Parables)** or examples of things that occur in nature.
- Branches not fully connected to the vine will get **(Weak)**, shrivel up, and fail to bear fruit.

"I AM" THE VINE

John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



Family Devotional



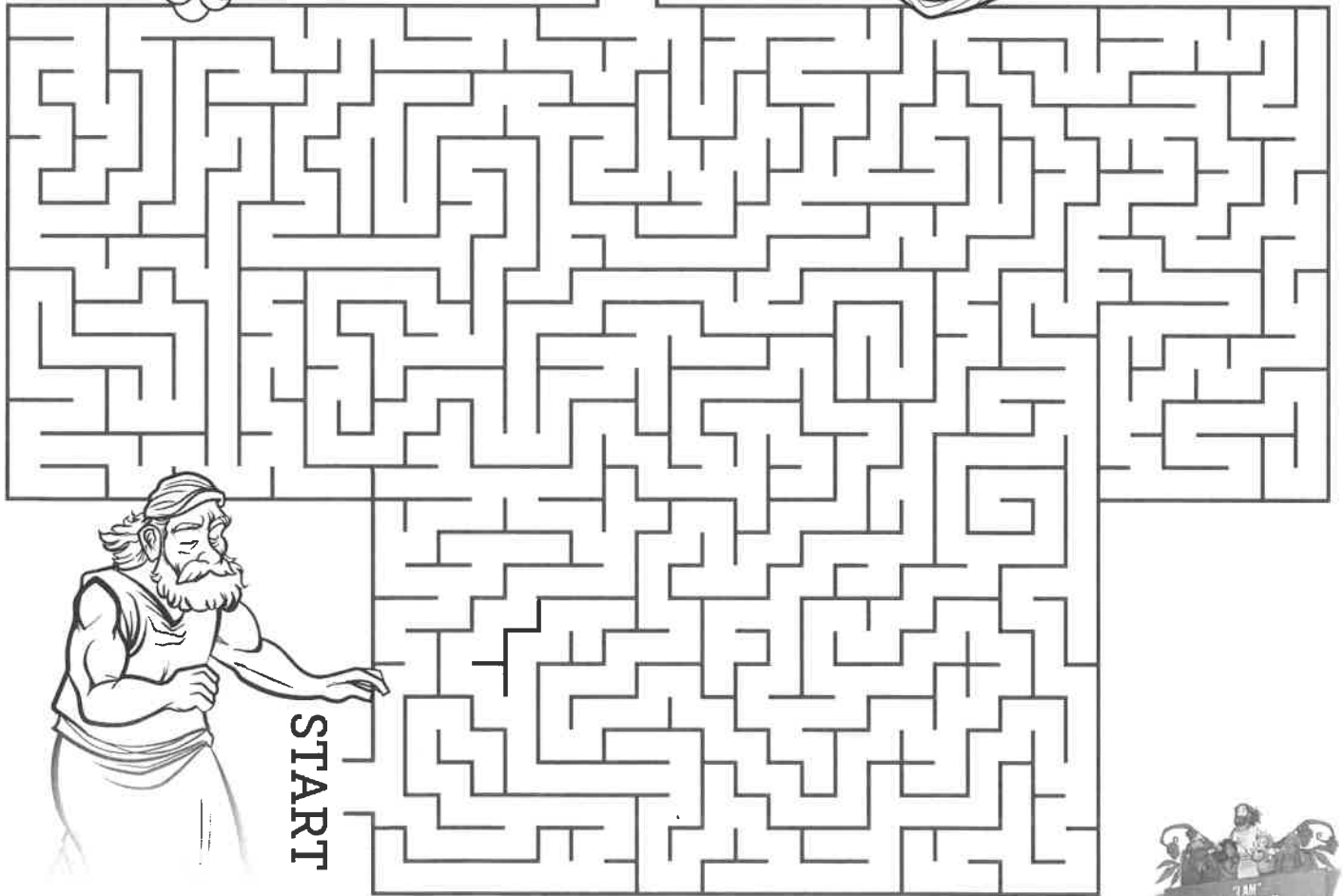
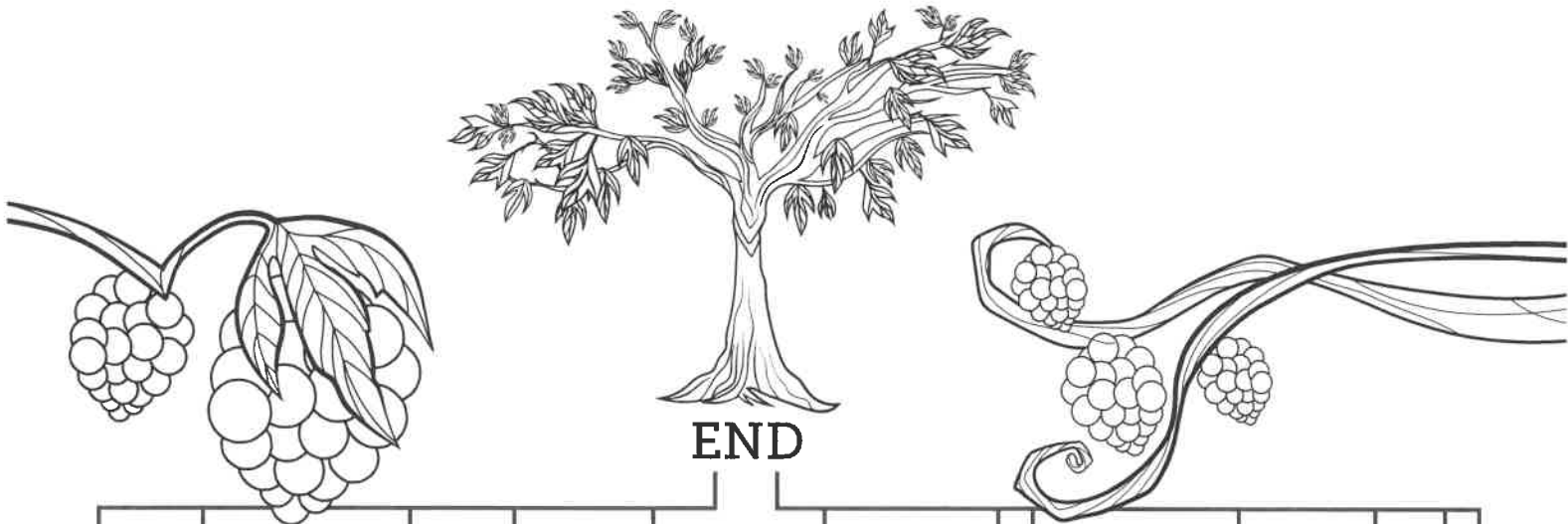
UNLOCK
CODE!

h8t8c9

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"I AM" THE VINE

Guide the gardener to the fruit tree.



"I AM" THE VINE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





"I AM" THE VINE



Discover the hidden words.

C	Y	L	A	P	T	T	N	S	U	N	X	W	J	T
J	E	S	U	S	S	W	N	I	C	P	V	P	O	S
B	V	W	E	E	Y	O	N	E	N	L	P	A	B	A
R	Q	L	N	D	C	Q	X	A	V	E	K	R	E	C
A	V	I	V	C	Y	U	Y	P	U	E	Q	A	D	R
N	V	M	I	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	L	B	I	I
C	S	D	F	M	X	V	U	J	B	M	J	L	E	F
H	F	L	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	D	F	E	N	I
E	I	R	H	T	F	R	U	I	T	X	R	S	C	C
S	T	N	U	U	W	D	W	G	B	H	N	E	E	E
U	Q	H	E	I	A	U	O	N	T	J	P	I	N	X
H	U	J	R	T	T	D	H	F	T	X	S	E	F	E
Z	B	K	S	F	Z	V	C	N	D	K	V	M	D	K
U	C	E	U	D	M	U	N	I	E	E	K	A	G	J
G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	M	S	N	N	Z	S	W

Word Bank

PROSPER

FRUIT

OBEDIENCE

FRIENDS

SACRIFICE

PARABLES

JESUS

BRANCHES

FRUIT

VINES

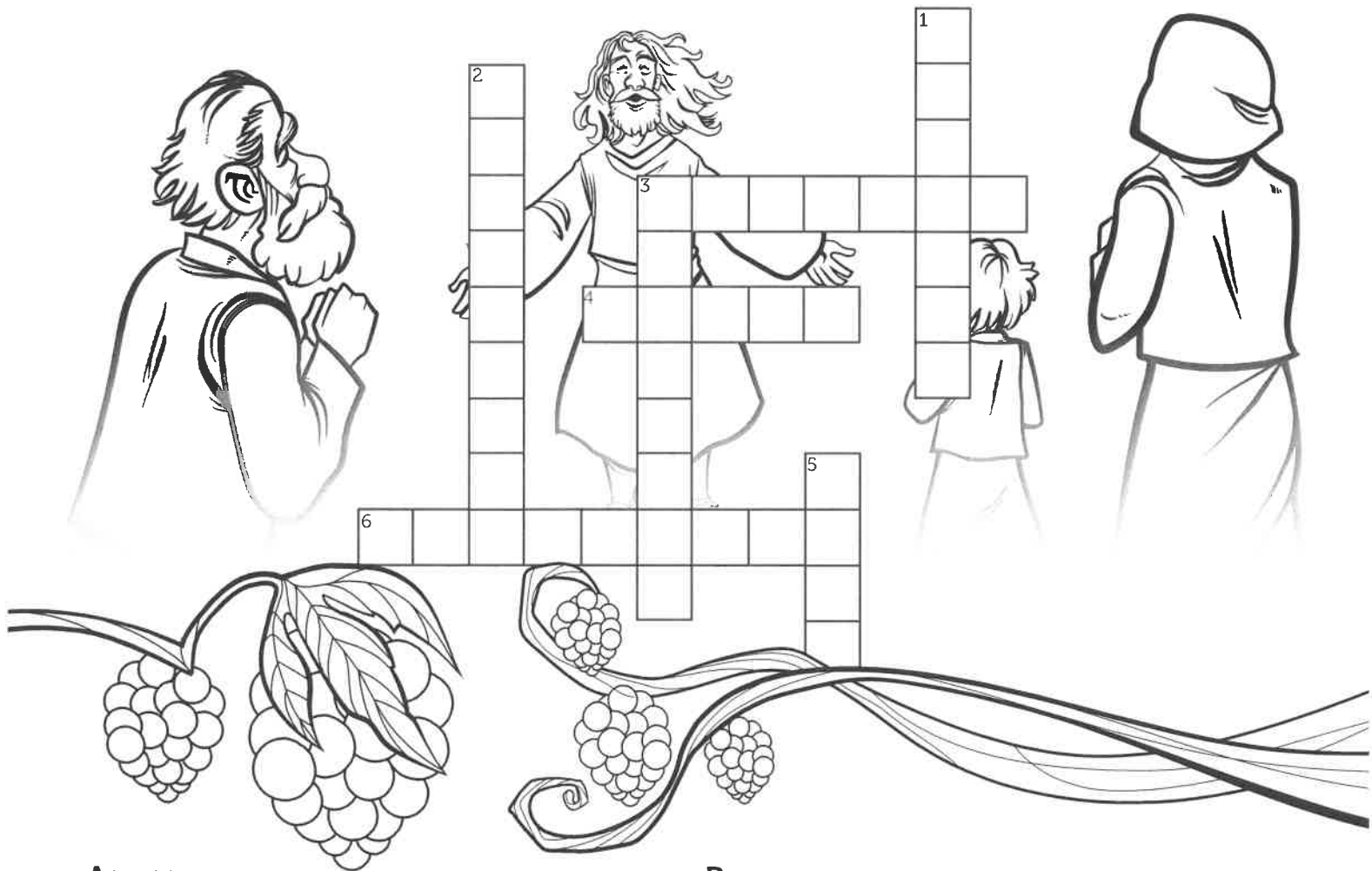
GARDENER

GOD



"I AM" THE VINE

John 15:1-17



Across

- Without a connection to Jesus, it is not possible for us to _____.
- Branches that do not grow _____ are cut off and thrown away.
- The keys to staying connected to Jesus are love and _____.

Down

- Jesus calls those who obey his commands His _____.
- Jesus showed His love for us by coming to serve and through _____.
- Jesus often taught using _____ or examples of things that occur in nature.
- Branches not fully connected to the vine will get _____, shrivel up, and fail to bear fruit.

