



Remember & Celebrate – I am the Vine

John 15:1-17

God Statement: God is Provider

KEY VERSE: “My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping His wonderful riches. These riches come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(Until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: I am the Vine!

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God Grows Us!

SAY: It’s Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you know what that means? **Let kids respond.** We are taking time today to reflect on all God has done and praise Him for it! Today, we’re learning about how Jesus is the Vine. Have you ever seen what a vine looks like before? **Let kids answer.** Do you know what usually grows from a vine? **Let kids answer –grapes, cucumbers, tomatoes, blueberries.** Lots of fruit and vegetables we love grow from a vine. Can you wiggle you fingers for me? Ok now scrunch your nose. Do you think your fingers would be able to wiggle if they weren’t attached to you? **Let**

kids answer – no! Jesus is the vine. We can't grow in our faith without Jesus. Just like a grape cannot grow without being connected to the vine. God grows us! Let's say God Grows us together – ready? God grows us! Before we jump into our lesson, let's do an activity.

MAKE: Grape Fingerprints

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: vine page, purple stamps

Directions: pass out one vine page per child. Have them draw grapes on the vine. Children can take turns using the ink pad to make grapes using their fingerprints.

SAY: God helps us grow! We must be attached to Him to help us grow, just like these grapes on a vine. Let's create our own vine of grapes using our fingerprints!

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***“My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping His wonderful riches. These riches come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19, NIRV)***

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ******

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Every Move I Make
- Child of Love
- Closing: Help Me Live in Step

****** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ******

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *God is Provider – The Parable of the Talents*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****** After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God. ******

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently. Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: chalkboard WR station, chalk, leaf die cuts, markers/pens, wire/twine WR station

Prepare Ahead: draw a large vine across the chalkboard and write “I am the Vine” at the top, place leaves in a bucket by the twine/wire stations.

SAY: When we trust and depend on Jesus, He shows us how to live. What did Jesus call himself in our story today? **Let kids respond – a vine!** And what did He call all of us? **Let kids respond – branches.** Just like the grapes on the vine that Miss Janice showed us, we have to depend on Jesus to help us grow!

God grows us! What does it mean that God grows us? **Let kids respond.** It’s not talking about us growing in height, it means that God helps us become more like Him when we follow Him!

I AM THE VINE STATIONS ACTIVITY:

SAY: Today is Remember & Celebrate, which means it’s a time to pause and reflect on who God is and what God has done in our lives. We’ve got two stations today for you to respond with:

Station 1 – I am the Vine, You are the Branches – Chalkboard Station

SAY: At this station, write your name on the vine. As you do it, think about how you can follow His example!

Station 2 – Thankful Leaves – Twine/Wire Station

SAY: At this station, take a leaf and think about how God has grown you or how you’ve seen God provide for you recently! Write or draw what you are thankful for on the leaf and pin it to the board. As you do this, thank God for helping you grow!

Let kids respond for a few minutes on their own while worship music plays in the background. Encourage teachers/LITs to help guide kids through the stations. Then, gather everyone back together.

SAY: God is so good! He loves us so much and He shows us how to live! He is our provider, and He grows us too! It’s important that we pause every now and then and think about all the things God has done for us.

Close time in prayer.

*****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.*****

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Praying for Schools

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

Praying for Schools

SAY: How are you feeling about this school year? Are you excited? Nervous? Afraid? **Let kids respond.** Think about how you can share your feelings with God in prayer. **Pause for a moment.** Do you think other kids might feel the same way about starting this school year too?

For the 2023-2024 school year, we are partnering with ACTs to be intentional about praying for our schools. Why do you think it is important to pray for our schools? **Let kids respond.** Isn't it so amazing that we get to communicate with God through prayer?

As we pray over this next month for schools, let's focus on 3 main groups:

1. Students
2. Teachers
3. Admin/Staff

Invite someone to come up and pray for the school year ahead!

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you remember that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches! May you follow God's direction as God grows you! He loves you.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: I am the vine (John 15: 1-17)**
 - **When we think of the story of grapes on the vine, who represents the grapes?** (We do!)
 - **The grapes grow on the vine. Who does the vine represent?** (Jesus or God!)

- **Just as the grapes can only grow on the vine, how do we grow in our faith?** (By staying close to Jesus!)
3. **The way to stay close to Jesus is to seek Him and spend time with Him! Put your thumb up if you spend time with Jesus during the week. Does anyone spend time with Jesus every day? Wow! That's a great goal for everyone. Keep your hand up if you would like to share some of the ways you spend time getting to know Jesus and talking to Him. That might help others to know how they can get closer to Him and learn to be more like Him. *(Allow a few kids to share.)***

Okay kids, keep all these great ideas close to your heart and try to spend some time with Jesus every day. That way you can learn more about Him and what it looks like to follow Him. That will bring you and God so much joy!

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: John 15: 5-8**
 - **When we think of the story of grapes on the vine, who represents the grapes?** (We do!)
 - **The grapes grow on the vine. Who does the vine represent?** (Jesus or God!)
 - **Just as the grapes can only grow on the vine, how do we grow in our faith?** (By staying close to Jesus!)

3. **How do you spend time with Jesus?** *(Allow a few kids to share. Reinforce how spending time with Jesus and getting to know Him can help us to learn about Him and how to follow Him.)*
4. **Tap your chin and think. Can you think of a way that Jesus has helped you to grow lately? Maybe He has helped you to grow in a way that brings more joy to you or maybe He has helped you grow in a way that has helped you bring more joy to others.** *(It may help to give your own example or even have the other teachers and leaders give examples from their own life. Then, allow any kiddos to share.)* **Sometimes growth takes time. Even if you don't see it right away, trust in God and the time you spend with Him. He is helping you grow and it will bring you joy!**

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: New Testament Books of the Bible Race

Supplies: 2 bags of New Testament books of the Bible cubes

Directions: Have children get into groups of 4-5. Each group will get a chance to race against another group. Give two groups, block bags. Set a timer and see how quickly each team can

finish stacking the blocks in order from beginning to end (the books of the New Testament need to be in order). Have children help their teams to remember what order the books of the New Testament go in.

SAY: God helps us grow! Did you know that one of the ways God helps us to grow, is through His word? What is His word? The Bible! That's right! Memorizing the books of the Bible helps us to grow too. Let's see if we can remember the names of the New Testament books of the Bible!

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.