

ALLEY SG – September 26th- 27th, 2026

Bible Story: The Vine and the Branches • John 15:1-11; Genesis 3

Conversation Starter: What is standing in the way of you and Jesus?

Monthly Memory Verse: “My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.” • John 10:27 NIV

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, Cardstock, Pens

What You Do:

- Say “I am going to have you work in groups to make a list. I want you to think of as many items as possible that you use on a daily or weekly basis that require some sort of connection. It may be items that have to be plugged into outlets for electricity or items that need some sort of internet connection to work (or maybe both). I’m going to give you five minutes to think of as many of these as possible.
- Divide the kids into groups of four. Have the group decide who is going to be the Recorder for the group. The Recorder will write down the group’s ideas.
- Give a piece of cardstock and a pen to each group’s Recorder.
- Ask if the group has any questions. Answer questions to clarify the assignment.
- Have groups circle up and tell them they have five minutes.
- Set a timer. Give a one-minute heads up.
- Gather kids back together in the Small Group space. Have groups share their list of items. Allow kids to write down any additional items that they think of during this time.
- Say “Now, I want all of us to look over these items that require connection. Think about how your day or week would be impacted if these items could not connect to their power source or signal (i.e., electrical, gas, internet).” Allow kids to share. Prompt kids with ideas if they need help, such as “What if your dishwasher was not plugged in? How would it affect your life?”

Say: “Sounds like our life would be really impacted if these things we depend on each day or week were not connected to their source of power. In our Bible Story today, Jesus taught about a strong connection that His followers should have with Him. He compared it to Him being a vine (like a grapevine) and His followers being the branches.

Read John 15:5-11. Say “Jesus is very clear in verse 5 that we cannot do anything without Him. He is our source of power to know God, follow God, and accomplish the important work that God has for us. Also, verses 8-10 tell us of the good things we receive when we remain connected to Jesus—we receive the love that He has for us (and He loves us so much!). We also receive the joy that He wants to give us. He calls it “complete joy” which means it’s a joy that satisfies.”

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Butcher paper, Markers

What You Do:

- Say “Think about some distractions that could get in the way of spending time with Jesus and being connected to Him. I’m going to give you a few minutes to draw a picture of these distractions.
- Allow kids time to complete their drawings, giving a 2-minute heads up when it’s time to finish up.
- Allow kids to share their drawings and expound on the distraction. If kids do not want to share, that is OK.

Say: “Choose a distraction that you want to focus on removing this week. It can be one of these listed here or one that you are just thinking about. Ask God for help in overcoming this particular distraction this week.”

3. Discussion Questions

- What is standing in the way of you and Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to use a vine and branches to teach His followers to stay connected to Him?
- Why is it important to stay connected to Jesus?
- What can help you stay connected to Jesus?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, phone timer

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 10:27.
- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Have kids form a circle, holding hands or elbows touching.
- Explain to the group that they will work together to say the Memory Verse one word at a time.
- Designate a kid to start the verse. That kid will say the first word of the verse, then hand-squeeze or elbow tap the kid to his left, who will say the next word of the verse. That kid will hand-squeeze or elbow tap the kid to his left, who will say the next word of the verse. This continues until the group has completed the verse.
- Time the group.
- The group will repeat the verse several times to see how quickly they can complete it.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*
- “God, thank You for wanting to be close to us. Thank You for your never-ending love. We want to be close to You, too. Please help us to remove distractions that take our focus away from being connected with You. Thank You for hearing us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for a PRIZE!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, remind kids that they can stay connected to God this week!