

City SG – September 26th- 27th, 2026

Bible Story: The Vine and the Branches • *John 15:5-11*

Bottom Line: I can grow when I stay close to God.

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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: The Vine and Branches word search and coloring sheet

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the Parable of the Vine and Branches word search AND coloring sheet.
- As kids arrive have them work on these activity sheets.
- Chat with kids about their week as they complete the pages.
- Explain that you are all going to work together to put the puzzle together.

Say: “Jesus used a picture like this to teach us something important. He said, ‘I am the vine, and you are the branches.’ That means we are like branches that grow on a vine. Branches don’t grow by themselves! They only grow when they stay connected to the vine. Let’s go learn more about what this means!”

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Stay Connected

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Ball of yarn (one per small group)

What You Do:

- Have kids sit in a circle.
- Say: “We’re going to build something together. We’re going to build a connection.”
- Hold up the ball of yarn. Say: “This yarn is going to help us see what it looks like to stay connected.”
- Explain how it works:
 - Leader holds the end of the yarn.
 - Leader says one way to stay connected to God.
 - Leader tosses the ball to a kid while holding the end.
 - Each kid shares and tosses to someone new, while holding on to the piece of yarn.
- Say: “When you catch the yarn, you’ll say one way you can stay connected to God. Then hold onto your piece and toss the ball to someone else.”
- Demonstrate:
 - Hold the end.
 - Say: “I can stay connected to God by praying.”

- Toss to the yarn to a kid.
- Continue guiding the activity as kids participate.
- Prompt if needed:
 - “Reading the Bible.”
 - “Talking to God.”
 - “Listening during quiet time.”
 - “Doing what God says.”
- As the web forms, pause and point it out.
- Say: “Look at this! We’re all connected.”
- After all kids have had a turn, gently lower the yarn web to the floor or keep holding if manageable.

Say: “Take a look at the yarn in your hands. It connects all of us, and it helps us see something important. Jesus said, ‘I am the vine, and you are the branches.’ A branch stays alive and grows when it stays connected to the vine. That’s where it gets everything it needs. When Jesus said this, He was teaching that He is our source. He is the One who gives us what we need to grow and begin to show things like love, joy, and patience. When you think about this yarn, let it remind you: staying close to Jesus is what helps you grow strong on the inside.”

2. Fruit or No Fruit?

Application Activity

What You Need: Fruit or No Fruit?” Activity Page (one set per small group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Fruit” and “No Fruit” card.
- Say: “We’re going to play a game called ‘Fruit or No Fruit?’ Listen carefully to each situation I read out, then you’ll decide – does this show fruit growing in someone’s life, or not?”
- Hold up the “Fruit” card or side. Say: “Before we start, let’s talk about what ‘fruit’ really means. When the Bible talks about fruit, it doesn’t mean apples or bananas! It means the good things people can see in your life. Things like being kind, telling the truth, helping others, and choosing to do what is right. That’s what we mean by fruit.”
- Hold up the “No Fruit” card or side. Say: “And ‘No Fruit’ means choices that don’t show those things. Like being unkind, selfish, or ignoring what God says.”
- Say: “So as we play, listen carefully and decide: does this show fruit growing in someone’s life, or not? Ready? Let’s try one together.”
- Practice round:
 - “Helping a friend who is hurt.”
 - Allow kids to respond.
 - Say: “That’s right! That’s fruit! When we stay connected to Jesus, we grow things like kindness and love.”
- Round 1
 - “Being kind to your brother or sister.”
 - “Yes – fruit! Choosing kindness is always the right choice.”
- Round 2
 - “Ignoring someone who needs help.”
 - “Right – no fruit. That choice would not show love.”
- Round 3

- “Taking time to pray.”
 - “That’s fruit! That is an amazing way to stay connected to God.”
- Round 4
 - “Only thinking about yourself.”
 - “That’s not fruit. That isn’t how Jesus teaches us to live!”
- Round 5
 - “Telling the truth, even when it’s hard.”
 - “Yes we are showing fruit when we are honest.”
- Round 6
 - “Choosing not to listen to what God says.”
 - “You’re right, that would be no fruit. We don’t want to miss what God is showing us!”
- Round 7
 - “Asking someone who is alone if they want to play with you.”
 - “Fruit! What a great way to show kindness.”
- Round 8
 - “Forgiving someone when they hurt your feelings.”
 - “Yes, this is showing fruit too! Forgiving can be hard, but when we stay connected to Jesus, He helps us.”
- Have kids put their cards down.

Say: “You made some really thoughtful choices in that game. Jesus said that when we stay connected to Him, our lives will begin to show it. Not just in what we say, but in how we live. Those ‘fruit’ moments we talked about, like kindness, honesty, and forgiveness, don’t come from just trying harder. They come from staying close to Jesus. When we listen to Him, spend time with Him, and follow what He says, He begins to change us from the inside out.”

3. Build-a-Branch

What You Need: Bibles, “Build-a-Branch” Activity Page (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - “*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*” • John 10:27
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Give each kid one of the strips with a word of the Memory Verse on it. Kids may pair up or take more than one word depending on number of kids in the group.
- Say: “Each of you has one part of our Memory Verse. First, take a minute to color in your word. You can add color, leaves, or anything that helps it stand out.”
- Allow a few minutes for decorating.
- After decorating, say: “Now we’re going to put all our words together to build our Memory Verse. We’re going to put it in order first, then shape it like a branch. Let’s find the very first word. Does anyone think they know what comes first?”
- Continue guiding:
 - “What comes next?”
 - “Who has the next word?”
- Help kids arrange the verse in order, left to right.

- Once the words are in order, say: "Now let's shape it into a vine and branches!"
- Gently guide kids to angle or curve the line slightly to resemble a vine.
- Tape pieces down as they are finalized.
- When complete, point to the full verse. Say: "Let's read it together."
- Read the verse out loud as a group one to two times

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!