

# The True Vine



**Theme:** To bear fruit, we must be connected to the vine.

**Object:** A lamp and an extension cord

**Scripture:** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

I am sure that you all know the song, "This Little Light of Mine." I want you to help me sing that song this morning. While we sing it, I'm going to hold this light up and let it shine all around. (Start to sing the song, but stop when you notice that the light isn't shining.) I wonder what is wrong, my light isn't shining. (Someone will probably notice that it isn't plugged in.) Oh, here's the problem, my light isn't plugged in.

Now that we are plugged in, let's try it again. (Sing) Oh, that was much better. The lamp was shining brightly, wasn't it? It's pretty hard for a light to shine when it isn't connected to the power source, isn't it? Well, actually, it isn't just hard -- it's impossible!

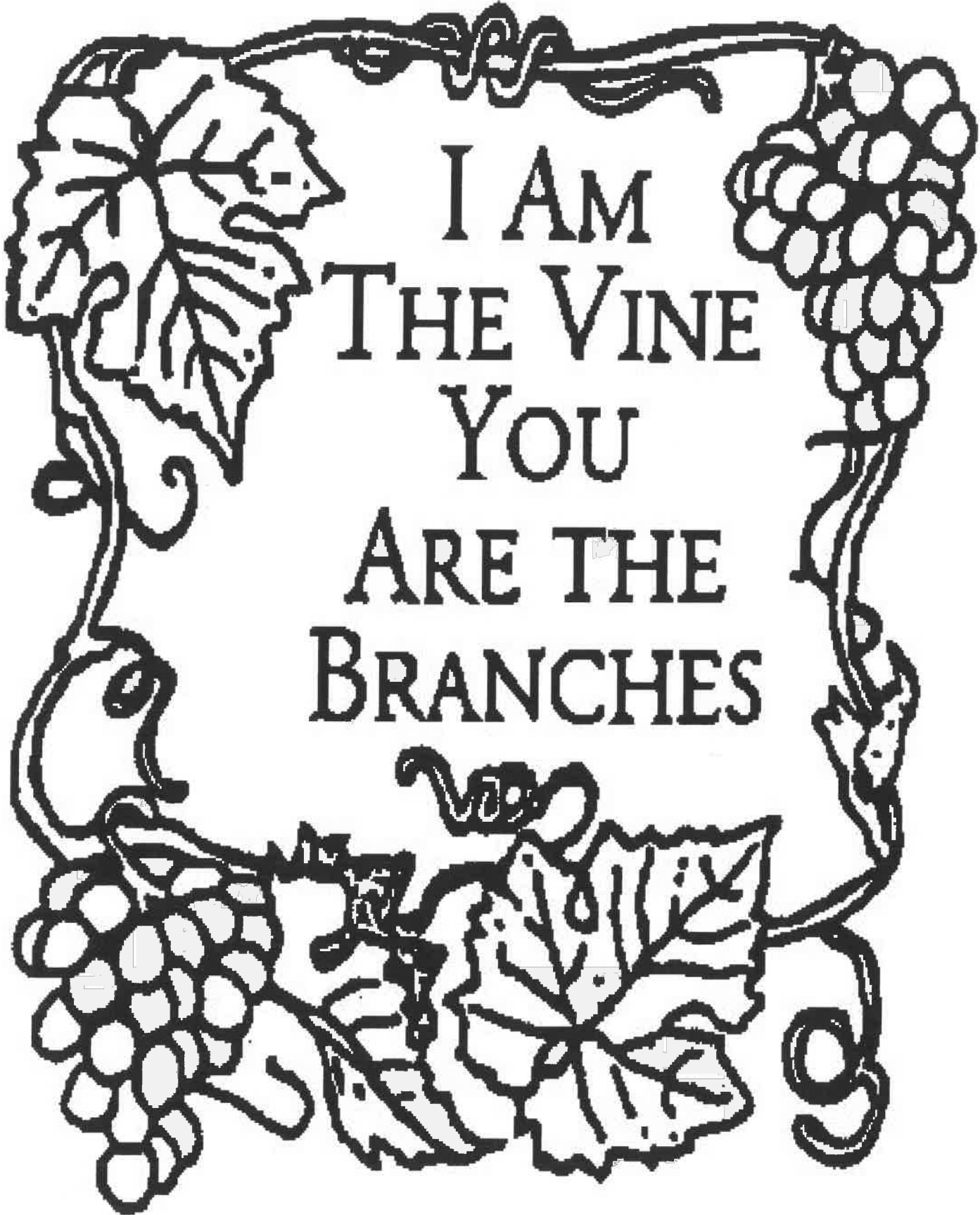
In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told his disciples a story to teach them the importance of staying connected to him. Of course Jesus didn't use a lamp to tell his story, because electricity hadn't even been invented yet. Instead, Jesus used an example that his disciples would understand. He used the example of a vine. You know what a vine is, don't you? It is a plant with a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches should have grapes on them.

Have you ever seen a branch that has been broken off of a tree or a vine? What happens to it? That's right, it withers up and dies. Can it ever have any fruit on it again? No, it isn't any good for anything -- except fire wood.

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will have much fruit, but apart from me, you can do nothing." Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit like being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, he wants us to love others as he has loved us.

Can we do that on our own? No way. Just as the lamp must be plugged in before its light can shine, and just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us.

Dear Father, help us to remember that we need to stay plugged in to Jesus if we are going to produce the kind of fruit you expect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



I AM  
THE VINE  
YOU  
ARE THE  
BRANCHES

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"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.," John 15:5 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 16-18-21-14-5-19 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 22-9-14-5 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 20-18-21-5 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 7-1-18-4-5-14-5-18 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 6-18-21-9-20 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 2-5-1-18 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 18-5-13-1-9-14 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 2-18-1-14-3-8-5-19 \_\_\_\_\_

PRUNES	VINE	TRUE	GARDENER
FRUIT	BEAR	REMAIN	BRANCHES

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

WORDS  
CLEAN  
FRUIT

GARDENER  
PRUNES  
BRANCH

REMAIN  
THROWN  
FIRE

BEAR  
VINE  
WITHERS

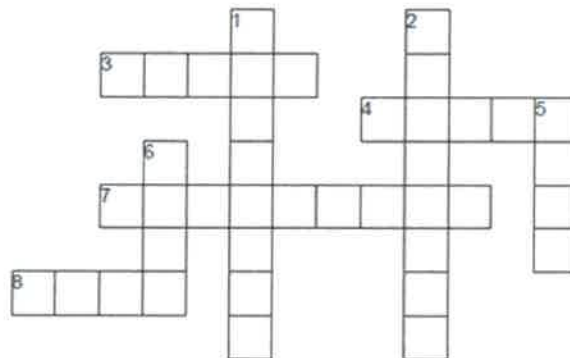
GLORY  
TRUE  
BURNED

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## ACROSS

3. Praise or honor
4. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
7. Those who follow Jesus
8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

## DOWN

1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
2. A person who works with plants and flowers
5. The opposite of false
6. Burning flame

TRUE	FIRE	GARDENER	FRUIT
DISCIPLES	GLORY	VINE	BRANCHES