



## Week 4- It's a God Thing

**Bible Story:** "The Vine and the Branches & The Peace of God" - John 15:4-5 and  
Philippians 4:6-7

**Main Idea:** I can connect with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like  
Him.

**Gospel Connection:** Like branches to a vine, we find our strength in Jesus. Our  
friendship with God comes from his goodness, not what we deserve on our own.

Welcome and Icebreaker (5 -10 min)

*The ping pong challenge. 2 groups of 10. If there is a small group everyone can play at once. Place a bucket at the far end of the junction. Each player get a curved piece of cardstock. The aim is to get a ping pong ball from the one side of the junction (the screen) to the bucket on the other side, by connecting the card stock halfpipes. Once the first player has successfully passed the ball to their partner they are to run to the end of the line to complete the 'road'. If the ball drops you need to start at the beginning.*

**ONE80 MC:**

GOOD MORNING, everyone! Welcome back to our final week of the BEST YEAR EVER. As we've been learning, every day with Jesus can turn the ordinary into something extraordinary. To kick us off we need to get into two teams. We will be racing for the fastest time. Each team has to create a path, using these card stock half pipes, for the ping pong ball to travel from the screen, to the bucket on the opposite side of the room. If you drop the ball, you need to start again. Once you have safely passed the ball to the next player, you need to run to the end of the line to make the road longer. The team that can get the ping pong ball safely in the bucket (without touching it with their hands) in the fastest time, wins.

Great first team you're up.

\*Get other team to sit somewhere out of the way, where they can observe

**Debrief:**

Great job guys, that was amazing. Refer to winning team- what was the secret to your success? It was important to get a good connection so that the ping pong ball could travel smoothly and not get stuck. Today we are going to be learning about how important it is to remain connected to Jesus so we can become more like Him!

## Open in Prayer (2-3 min)

Praise God for who He is. Thank Him for blessing us with a NEW YEAR!! Thank Him that He is

always in control. Ask him to prepare our hearts as we study his word and show us how we can stay connected to Him and grow closer to Him each day!

## Object Lesson- Jesus makes our mess clean

(1 plant and 1 broken off branch)

Let's think about a tree for a moment. Look at this tree. Can you see how the leaves are connected to the branches, and then connected to the trunk and lead to the roots in the soil. For the leaves and the branch to grow, it needs to be connected.

Have you ever seen a branch that's fallen off a tree? Here is a small one. What happens to it? It dries up and dies, doesn't it? It cannot grow leaves and sustain life, because it's no longer connected to the tree that gives it life.

Today, we will learn how important it is to stay connected to Jesus, just like branches need to stay connected to a tree. He is the giver of life and when we are filled with Him, and connected to him, He sustains us.

We need to stay connected with Jesus daily to find real peace and become more like Him.

## Bible Exploration –The Vine and the Branches

(If the group is large you may prefer to split the group and do the bible lesson in two

groups)

Fastest finger first - Who can find John 15:4-5

**ONE80 Volunteer:**

**READ: John 15:4-5**

Jesus is using a word picture here to help us understand something very important. He's comparing Himself to a vine, which is like the main part of a plant, and He's comparing us to branches. Just like branches need to stay connected to the vine to live and grow, we need to stay connected to Jesus.

What do you think it means to "remain" in Jesus? It's like staying close to Him every day - talking to Him in prayer, reading His words in the Bible, and trying to live the way He teaches us. When we do this, Jesus says we'll "bear much fruit." This doesn't mean we'll grow apples or oranges! It means our lives will show good things that come from being close to Jesus, like kindness, love, and peace.

Now, let's read Paul's letter to the Philippians.

**READ: Philippians 4:6-7**

Have you ever been worried or scared? We all feel that way sometimes. But Paul is telling us here that instead of worrying, we can talk to God about everything that's bothering us. When we do this, God promises to give us His peace - a special kind of calmness that helps us even when things around us are difficult.

This peace that God gives is so amazing that Paul says it's beyond our understanding. It's not something we can explain easily, but we can experience it when we trust in God and stay connected to Jesus.

Remember how we talked about branches staying connected to the vine? When we stay connected to Jesus by talking to Him about our worries and trusting Him, we receive His peace. It's like the life-giving sap that flows from a vine to its branches, helping them grow strong and healthy.

**GOSPEL CONNECTION:** The wonderful thing about our relationship with Jesus is that it's not based on how good we are or what we can do. Jesus, the true vine, offers us life and peace simply because He loves us. We don't earn His love or our place as His branches – He freely gives it to us when we put our faith in Him. Just like a branch doesn't have to struggle to stay connected to the vine, we don't have to struggle to earn God's love. We simply need to trust in Jesus and accept the life and peace He offers us.

## Snack Time

# Small Group Discussion

(Split into 2 groups- preferably boys and girls if numbers allow, and find a quiet space where you can be real) Remember to pass an object around to and give each member an opportunity to talk.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does it mean to stay connected to Jesus like a branch is connected to a vine? Can you think of ways we can stay connected to Him every day?
2. Why do you think a branch can't grow fruit by itself? How does that help us understand our relationship with Jesus?
3. What are some things that might stop us from staying connected to Jesus? How can we avoid or overcome these things?

## **Prayer Requests:**

Alright, thank you for sharing your thoughts! Now, does anyone have any prayer requests? We can pray for anything - whether it's something you're thankful for, something you're struggling with, or a prayer for someone else. We can also pray and ask God to help us to listen to Him.

\*Allow time for children to share- and jot down their requests. Make sure each child's request is prayed for. As a volunteer you can lead this prayer time by asking specific children to pray for specific requests, break into pairs and pray for each other or you can pray corporately- however you feel led.

## **Let's pray together.**

*Dear God, thank you for teaching us today about how Jesus is the Vine, and we are the branches. Help us to stay connected to Him so we can grow strong and full of joy. Please listen to our prayer requests now [mention any specific requests]. Help us this week to*

*remember to pray and read Your words every day. Thank you for loving us and being with us always. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Reflection Time (5min)

Ask children to find a space where they can be alone and focus on Jesus. Use the reflection sheets to spend time praying and reflecting. The facilitator will let you know when time is up.

## Memory Verse Challenge (5 min)

John 15:5, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing.'

## Wrap up and take home challenge

### **Challenge:**

Think of ways that you can stay connected to Jesus this week, and try and put 1 of them into practise.