Preschool–Grade 6

I Am the Vine

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I stay close to Jesus.
Bible passage: John 15:1–8. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I am the vine, ye are the branches." *John 15:5 (KJV).* The old word means: **ye** means you.
You need: a Bible, a potted plant, one leaf cut from it the day before, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: cut one leaf from the plant the day before, so it is limp by class time. Put a bookmark in your Bible at John 15.

1. Opening game: Follow the Vine (5 minutes)

You are "the vine." The kids line up behind you and each one holds on to the shoulder of the child in front. Walk slowly around the room, up and down and around chairs. Everyone must hold on! Say: "Good holding on! Today we will hear what Jesus said about a vine and its branches."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 15. Say: "These are Jesus' words. They are in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus talked about a vine (John 15:1). *(Stand tall like a strong stem.)*
A vine has branches (15:5). *(Stretch your arms out wide.)*
Fruit grows on the branches (15:5). *(Make fists like fruit on a branch.)*
Jesus said, "I am the vine" (15:5). *(Point up.)*
"Ye are the branches." That's us (15:5)! *(Point to yourself.)*
Show the plant and the cut leaf. A leaf on the plant stays green. *(Smile.)*
A cut-off leaf can't grow by itself (15:4). *(Droop your arms.)*
We stay close to Jesus (15:4). *(Hug yourself.)*
Then good fruit grows (15:5). *(Stretch your arms out wide again.)*
Say it with me: "I stay close to Jesus!"
Without Jesus, we can do nothing (15:5). *(Shake your head no.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus is the vine!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who is the vine? *(Jesus, John 15:5)*
2. Who are the branches? *(We are, 15:5)*
3. Can a branch grow by itself? *(No! It has to stay on the vine, 15:4)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'I am the vine, ye are the branches.' Ye means you." Teach the motion: point up on "I am the vine," then stretch your arms out like branches on "ye are the branches." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "John 15:5" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: My Vine (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a vine with branches and lots of round fruit, like grapes. While they color, ask: "Who is the vine? Who are the branches?" Kids who finish early can play Follow the Vine again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear Jesus, You are the vine.
Help me stay close to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it simple. The lesson says only that a branch can't grow by itself; it leaves out John 15:6. Let every child touch the green leaf on the plant and the cut-off leaf. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can talk about it again this week.

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