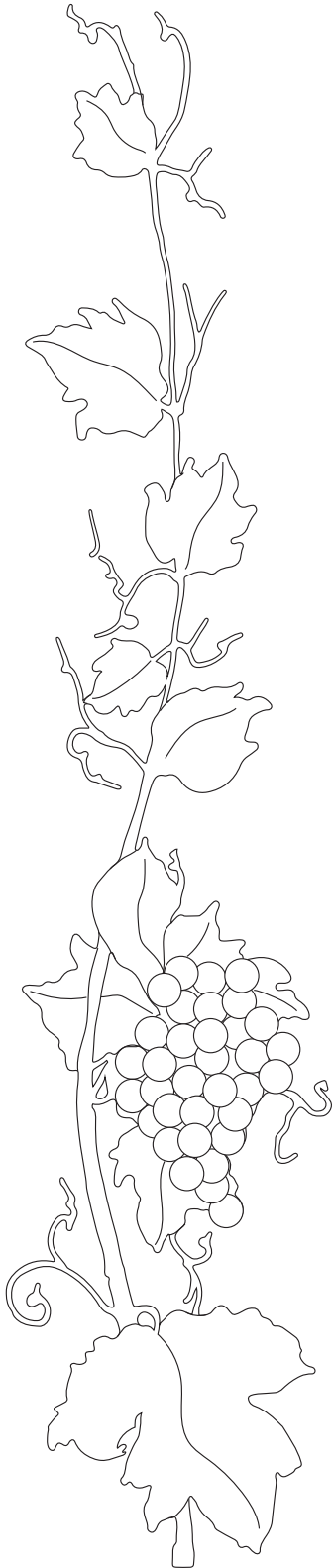


*I am the vine. You are the branches. If anyone remains joined to me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.*

—John 15:5 NIV



### Materials Needed

A picture of a grapevine with branches, a marker (to write children's names on branches), a cell phone, helpers in the congregation.

### Song Suggestion

*His Banner Over Me is Love* - specifically the verse, "He is the Vine and we are the branches; His banner over me is love..."

### Message

Begin by reading John 15:5 to the group. As you are reading the verse, have someone call you on your cell phone. Answer the phone, chat shortly and end by saying, "Thanks for keeping me connected to you!" Repeat the process a few times.

**Say:** Wow! Isn't it nice my friends keep me connected to them? Jesus does this, too!

### Read John 15:5

**Say:** Let's look at the picture of the vine and the branches. Jesus calls himself the Vine (*put Jesus' name on the vine*). Jesus tells us we are the branches. (*Point to the branches*.) Jesus keeps us connected to Him in many ways. One way Jesus keeps us connected to Him is through the gift of baptism. Raise your hand if you have been baptized. (*Write children's names on branches*.) Another way Jesus keeps us connected to Him is through the Bible. Raise your hand if you have ever read or listened to the Bible. (*Write names of the rest of the children on branches*.) Another way Jesus keeps us connected to Him is by giving us Christian friends and a church family to worship with. Raise your hand if you have Christian friends. (*Point to the vine and branches picture*.) Look at how many of us are connected to Jesus!

**Say:** Jesus loves us so much He never lets us go! Jesus keeps us connected to Him! Jesus keeps you connected (*point*) and you connected (*point*) and all of these people connected (*point to congregation*). Jesus keeps everyone in God's family connected to Him, whether you are big or small, boy or girl, man or woman. Jesus keeps all people of all abilities connected to Him!

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us share Your love with others, so people of all abilities can know You never let any of us go. Thank You for making us Your children. We love You, Jesus. In Your name we pray. Amen.