



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2024

BIBLE LESSON:

JOHN 15:1-8

ACTS 8:26-40

I Am the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 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. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- John 15:1-8

In verse 1, Jesus describes Himself as the "true vine" and says that His Father (God our Father in Heaven) is the vinedresser. A vinedresser is a special kind of gardener that breaks off dead branches and trims back good branches to make the grapes grow so that the water in the branches isn't wasted on bad grapes.

The Bible tells us that God used to compare the people of Israel to a vineyard or grapevine. He wanted them to grow by following Him and teaching others about Him so that there would be many believers growing in groups, like bunches of grapes, growing on a vine.

The people of Israel didn't always do what God wanted them to do. They didn't always grow and make good things happen like they were instructed to. So, when Jesus said, 'I am the true vine,' He was saying something special.

In verse 5, Jesus says "... apart from me you can do nothing". He knows that we will only produce bad fruit if we try to do things on our own, so Jesus—the perfect vine, was sent to us, for us, to perfectly help us.

When we are connected to Jesus and, with the Holy Spirit's help, follow Him, we are being fed





life-giving water, just like branches growing on that perfect vine. Jesus helps us to grow, do good things and to tell others about Him. He gives us what we need to be kind and helpful, loving others through our actions and showing them how we are connected to the perfect vine.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure . . . And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" . . . Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

- Acts 8:26-27a, 29-31a, 35-36

In today's first reading from Acts 8: 26-40 Philip demonstrates what Jesus means when He said in John 15: 8 "that you bear much fruit". Through faith, Philip is attached to the "true vine" of Jesus and is told by the Holy Spirit to go meet the Ethiopian man, who was interested in learning about the Bible and wanted to understand what he was reading. The Bible tells us in Acts 8:35 that Philip shares "the good news about Jesus" which made everything clear to the Ethiopian, after which he asked to be baptized.

It is understood that the Ethiopian then returned to his homeland, sharing the Christian message in his part of Africa!



Let Us Pray Together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to be the true vine that we can be attached to. Holy Spirit, help us to be fruitful like Philip and the Ethiopian that as good fruit is made on us we may share the Good News of Jesus with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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