

'I AM THE VINE'

John 15:1-12

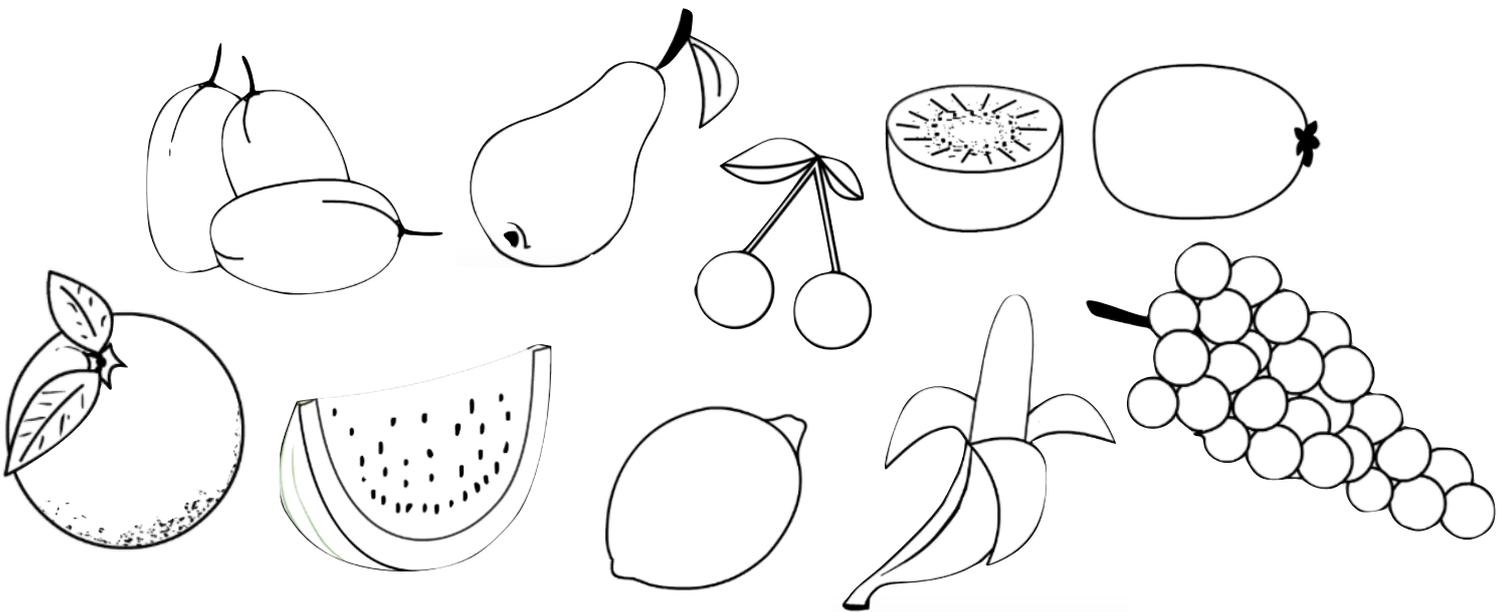
1. Match the I AM saying of Jesus to what we learnt about what he gives us.

| I AM | GOD |
|----------------------------------|---|
| the Bread of Life | lights up our spiritual darkness |
| the Light of the World | has all power over life and death |
| the Door | the entrance to fullness of life |
| the Good Shepherd | fills our spiritual needs |
| the Resurrection and the Life | helps us grow when we stay connected to him |
| the Way, the Truth, and the Life | gives up his life for us |
| the Vine | shows how to get to heaven |

2. Read John 15:1-11. When words or phrases are repeated, it usually means they are very important. Count times it says each of these words, then match to what they mean.

| FREQ. | WORD/PHRASE | MEANING |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| | vine | Jesus's followers |
| | branch/branches | to relate with Jesus, and love and obey him |
| | fruit/fruitful | Jesus - the source of life |
| | prune | the good things Jesus produces in us |
| | remain | to remove bad bits through hard times |

3. What fruit does Jesus mention in v.10-12? What other fruit of the Spirit can you remember? Write them in the fruit below. If you are stuck, check in Galatians 5:22-23.



I AM THE VINE 26/01/2021

Let them chat for 5 minutes: What's your favourite fruit? We're going to be thinking about fruit today. Draw it! Do you like grapes or chocolate buttons better?

Warm up

This week I read a quotation about someone and it made me think a lot so I thought I'd share it with you all and see what you think:

'Heaven was in him before he was in Heaven.'

Let them give their ideas - will come back to it at the end and see if we can add any more to what we understand about it.

Write it down and challenge their dads to see if they know who said it and who they said it about!

Recap

Can you link the I AM saying of Jesus to what we learnt about Jesus from it?

I've sneaked today's I AM onto the list too!

Which one did we do last time?

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Does anyone remember when Jesus said it? Do you remember what was worrying the disciples?

- The night before the crucifixion - his last evening on earth with his disciples.
- Today's I AM comes that same evening.
- The disciples were very worried about Jesus going away - we said about like a Pre-Schooler left at school by their mum. They didn't know where he was going.
- Jesus told them he was going to heaven, to his Father, to prepare a place for them so they could be with him forever. And that's what Heaven is. Heaven=being with him forever.
- Then the disciples were worried how they could get there. Jesus told them he was the way.

We stopped half way through chapter 14 of John.

Jesus goes on to encourage them that although he is going away, he won't leave them alone. He will send another helper to be with them.

Who was he going to send?

- The Holy Spirit. There was a sense in which they would still have him with them. They could actually have Heaven in them before they would get there.
- The amazing thing is that because the Holy Spirit is in all Christians, this is just as true of you and me today if we believe in Jesus.
- And that means that Jesus is even closer to us than other people we can see and touch, or than he was to the people who knew him on earth.

Does that leave you scratching your head a bit?

- Maybe the disciples were still scratching their heads, because in today's section he explains a bit more what that means and he gives them some picture language to help them to understand a bit more.
- He said it is a bit like a vine.
- *What's vine? Does anyone have one in their garden? Do you do anything to look after it? Does it produce much fruit? Show picture.*

Prayer and reading

But before we read God's Word, let's pray:

Dear Lord, your word is living and powerful and you have promised that if we believe in you, you dwell in us through your Holy Spirit. Please speak to us as your word is read. Help us to understand more about you so that your joy may be in us. Amen.

Ask Kim to read John 15:1-12.

Let's listen to God's word together and remember that it is God's word, speaking to us.

Repetition

When words or phrases are repeated, it usually means they are very important.

There were some words repeated a lot in that passage, weren't there? Which ones?

Count times it says each of these words, and then we'll think a little about what Jesus means by using this picture of the vine.

The vine

Which is most important? The vine, the branch, or the fruit? Why?

- Of course it is the vine because life is in the vine. The life for the branches and the fruit comes from the vine itself. Prize vines in vineyards go on for generations.
- We've been reminded in every single I AM saying that Jesus is the source of life and goodness. *Can you remember any examples?* And we get that reminder in this picture of the life-giving vine too.
- It is so amazing that we can know him and that he offers us this fullness of life and joy. Without him we don't have this joy. Our joy would just depend on how many buttons are left in the packet. With Jesus, we have fullness of joy that lasts forever, not matter what else happens in life.
- But in the picture of the vine, this is also reminder that everything we do and have as Christians comes from Jesus. It is 100% grace.
- *Do you remember what grace means?*
- God's Riches At Christ's Expense. It all depends on and comes from him.

The branches

Who are the branches in Jesus's description?

- Christians are the branches. We are the branches.
- *What is the relationship between the vine and the branches?*
- They are part of the same plant. They are joined together, and if we are Christians, we are joined together with Jesus. We are in him and he is in us through the Holy Spirit, just as he explained to the disciples.
- Jesus's life is in us if we are Christians. Does that depend on us? No - just as the branches depend on the vine, we depend on him.

Fruit

What are the branches supposed to do?

- Bear fruit!
- *What do you think the fruit is?*
- It's the good things that Jesus produces in us through the Holy Spirit.
- Would it work if I went out into the garden and hung this bunch of grapes on our vine? Of course not! What's wrong with that? It doesn't grow out of the branch and the vine. It's not real fruit.
- It's the difference between a Christmas tree and an apple tree! They both look lovely, but only one of them is alive!

- If the fruit is to be real, then it must grow out of the plant. I think in a memory verse, you have learnt some of the fruit of the spirit.
- *Do you remember any of the fruit of the Spirit?*
- *Look them up and write them on the fruit on the sheet.*
- Some of those things we can put on on the outside, but that's just like hanging grapes on my vine.
- God wants to see them growing out of the grace he has given us and a heart that loves him.

Pruning

- *What does Jesus say will happen to the vine to make it fruitful?*
- It is pruned. If you don't prune a vine - this is what happens. Show picture. All branches and leaves and no fruit.
- *Who prunes? What do you think that means in the picture?*
- It means that God really cares about this vine and he wants to see it being fruitful and he sometimes make things painful for us so that we can have the opportunity to grow these lovely fruits in our lives.
- It's hard to learn patience when you never have to wait!
- And it's hard to be sure our joy is joy in Jesus when get what you want all the time.
- So we shouldn't be surprised when we meet problems and disappointments. We shouldn't go looking for them, of course, but when they come, perhaps we can have a little glimmer of joy when we remember that this experience could be part of the Father doing some pruning to make us more fruitful.

Abiding

- *How do we be fruitful?*
- Abide or remain in Jesus. What does that mean we need to do? In one way, not much! We are joined on to Jesus, so he is holding on to us - a bit like that hymn we sometimes sing in church, 'he will hold me fast'.
- *But Jesus gives us some things that we can and should be doing that will show we are also holding on to him. Can you spot them?*
- listen to Jesus and talk to him: my words abide in you and you will ask
- abide in my love - spend time thinking about Jesus's love for us
- obey my commands

I think that's what having in heaven in us before we are heaven would look like.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, the teaching of this passage is so amazing it is very hard for us to understand all of it. Thank you for your love and your life that are in us. Open our eyes and hearts to understand more every day and to love you more. May each one of us abide in you and be fruitful. Amen.

Craft

- Make cloth damp.
- Collect some sellotape.
- Make vine out of pipe cleaners and sellotape onto sheet.
- Cut out leaves.
- Write verses onto either leaves or background.
- Finger paint the bunches of grapes.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

John 15:5

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

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