



Meaning and Purpose in Life - The Vine and the Branches

• Good for Upper Elementary and above •

Main Point: Stay close to Christ; God will do great things through you.

Objects Required: Tree branch, two or three types of fruit, duct tape.

Object Lesson: Show your listeners the tree branch. Say something like this, allowing kids to respond to your questions: "Is this branch able to grow fruit on it? Why not? Right, it's dead. Why is it dead? It's broken off the tree."

Wrap the duct tape around the fruit and branch. "There. I fixed it. The branch is growing fruit now, right? Wrong, of course. The branch is dead because it is broken off the tree, the true source of the fruit."

Now read the Bible passage. Make sure your group clearly understands that Jesus was talking about the good things God does through Christians who stick close to Him.

Bible Passage: John 15:1-5 - The Vine and the Branches.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 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."

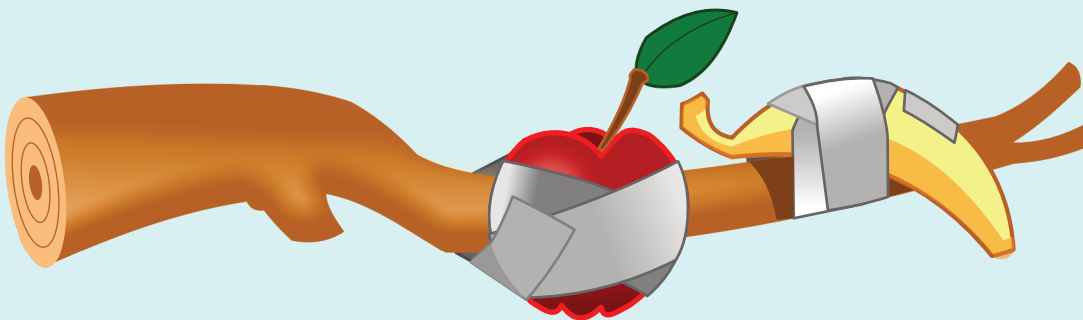
Suggested Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; God has prepared - in advance - good works for each of us to accomplish in life!

Activity Page: God, Me, Others

Watch the demonstration video; it adds details AND gives a second suggestion for a deeper dive.

Link to the Object Lesson Demonstration Video: <https://youtu.be/S4bO0hjACi8>

Make Things Easier: Sign up to receive links to the latest object lesson video and lesson plan moments after they are released: <https://www.clamcentral.com/links>



God, Me, Others

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22,23

In the Gospel of John, the 15th chapter, Jesus made it clear that when we stay close to God, we will see God do great things **through** us. Jesus called this 'bearing fruit.' In Galatians, above, we see **great things God will do IN us.**

Notice that we've marked off GOD and OTHERS in the chart below. That's because we feel that when we love with the **love that comes from God's Spirit**, we can fully love God and care for others. Now it's your turn. Who likely feels the benefits of God's joy in our hearts? Who is affected by God's peace? You get the idea.

	GOD	ME	OTHERS
Love	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Joy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kindness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goodness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Faithfulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gentleness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>