

## John 15: 1-2

**Topic:** a) What does God want you to be?

a) There were two trees. One was thin and scraggly. It had no leaves. The fruit that grew on it was all shriveled up and tasted terrible. The other tree was big and healthy. It grew tall and leafy. The fruit that grew on it was huge and juicy. The tree gave fruit for people and for animals. The tree was also a home to birds, squirrels and rabbits. People came just to sit under its shade and eat of its fruit. The scraggly tree was cut down and used for fire wood. The healthy tree grew bigger and bigger.

- Which one does God want your life to be like?
- Which one do you want your life to be like?

## John 15: 3

**Topic:** a) Cleansed and growing

a) Once there was a little tree that was covered with mud. The little tree was so filthy that it couldn't grow and was dying. Then one day it rained. The rain washed all the mud off the little tree. Then the rain water went into the ground down to the roots of the little tree. The tree sucked up the water and began to grow. It wasn't long before people were picking fruit off the tree.

- What cleanses us and makes our lives like that fruitful tree? ( Gods words)
- What do we have to do? (Believe them)

## John 15: 4-6

**Topic:** a) What is abide?

a) There was a monkey who lived in the jungle of the lions. This jungle was full of hungry lions who would love to have a little monkey for lunch. The monkey lived in a tall banana tree. Up in that tree the monkey had everything he needed. He was safe because the tree was far away from the ground and the lions couldn't get him. When the monkey climbed to the top of the tree he could see everything around the jungle for miles. The tall branches were perfect for the monkey to sleep in and the big leaves made a perfect blanket. The tree was filled delicious bananas for the monkey to eat. The big leaves caught the rain drops so there was plenty of water to drink. The tree was also filled with other monkeys so he never got lonely. This tree gave the monkey everything he needed to live. He stayed in the tree where it was safe.

- This monkey is abiding in the tree
- We abide in Jesus. He gives us life. We stay with Him.

**Topic:** b) How do we abide in Jesus?

b) There was a place that had a lot of bad storms. A man wanted to buy a house there but he was afraid that if a storm came his house would blow down. He found a nice house and the man who was selling the house told him that this house would stand no matter how bad the storm. The man believed it, bought the house and moved in. The next day a huge storm came. The wind was blowing so hard that the windows were shaking. The man stayed inside the house and was safe. He lived in that house for the rest of his life.

- This is how we abide in Jesus....
- We move in....We believe that He is and that He died for our sins and rose again.
- We pray for help when problems come. He keeps us safe.
- We believe in Him our whole lives.

**Topic:** c) What happens when we abide in Him?

c) There was a vine in the garden. On this vine was a tomato. The tomato stayed on the vine and took all the food and water that the vine gave it. It grew huge and red. It took first place in the large tomato contest.

- This tomato abided in the vine.
- People who abide in Jesus are filled with more and more joy.

**Topic:** d) What happens when we don't abide in Him?

d) There was a vine in the garden. On this vine grew a tomato. The tomato thought it would be better to live on the ground than in the vine. The tomato wiggled and wiggled until it finally fell off the vine and onto the ground. "Now I can really live!" thought the tomato. A short time later the tomato was still on the ground but it was all shriveled up and somebody stepped on it.

- People who don't abide in Jesus shrivel up on the inside because only Jesus can give life.

## **John 15: 7-8**

**Topic:** a) Ask me for anything.

a) Would you rather have a snowflake that melts or a sun beam that lasts forever?

- Ask God for things that last forever.

a) 1 Kings 3: 1-15....Solomon asks for wisdom.

a) Once there was a farmer who grew a little flower. The farmer loved the flower and told the flower to ask him for anything the flower wanted and he would do it. The flower thought about this and finally said, "I want to be a huge beautiful flower that smells really nice. I want people to feel happy when they see me." The farmer was happy when he heard what the little flower

wanted because that's what he wanted too. The farmer said he would do what the flower wanted. Every day the farmer would go out and water the flower. He would make sure that no weeds grew up around it. He gave the flower healthy plant food to eat. Soon the flower was huge and beautiful. Everyone who saw the flower felt happy.

- Anyone who asks God for the things that please God will get them.
- What pleases God? ( That we live abundant, joyful and forever lives)

## **John 15: 9-10**

**Topic:** a) Is there any better place?

a) There is a cave. It is dark and cold. There is a hole in the ceiling that is big enough to crawl out of. If you crawl through the hole you can see the sky, the land, the flowers and animals.

- If you lived in that cave...Would you crawl through the hole and live outside or would you stay in the cave? Where would you abide?
- Abide in Gods love. There is no better place.

**Topic:** b) How has He shown us His love? (His commandments)

b) Once there was a family of bugs. They lived in a tiny, tiny house that was in the middle of Mrs. Brown's rug. Every day Mrs. Brown would vacuum her rug. The father bug gave his children a command that whenever they heard the loud sound of the vacuum cleaner they should keep the door shut and stay inside. One day they heard the sound of the vacuum cleaner. One of the bugs thought it would be fun to open the door. He did and got sucked out of the house into the vacuum cleaner. Those who obeyed lived.

- Why did the father bug give his command? (He loved them)
- Did those bugs who obeyed live in his love?
- Why does God tell us what to do and what not to do?
- Those who obey abide in His love.

**Topic:** c) How do we keep ourselves in the love of God?

c) There are some people who have to get across the ocean. They have a boat and the captain tells them to stay on the boat. They set sail and soon a storm comes up. The waves and the wind are huge. The people stay on the boat and are happy that the boat is strong and wont sink. Along the way some people fall off the boat. Some people jump off but they swim and get back on. There are hungry sharks circling the boat but the people stay on the boat and are safe. Finally they get across the entire ocean.

- How were they able to get safely across the ocean? (They depended on the boat.)
- Gods love is like the boat...Depend on it....Stay in it!

## **John 15:11**

**Topic:** a) Why does God tell us all these things?

a) Once there was a little bird walking on the ground. This little bird had never flown, it didn't know how. The little bird spent his whole life walking on the ground trying to stay out of the way of bird eating animals. One day another bird was flying in the sky when he noticed the little bird walking on the ground. The bird landed and asked him why he was walking instead of flying. He answered that he never learned how to fly. The other bird told him that all he had to do was run, jump and flap his wings as hard as he could. The little bird listened to what the other bird said. The little bird started running as fast as he could. He jumped high into the air and flapped his wings. To his surprise he went higher and higher into the air. Soon he was soaring through the clouds happier than he had ever been before.

- Why did the bird tell the little bird these things?
- Why does God tell us these things? ( He wants us to fly)

## **John 15: 12-13**

**Topic:** a) What is love?

a) The door to heaven was shut because of sin

- All of our sins were put on Jesus. He died and came back to life.
- Now the door is open for anyone who believes what Jesus did for them.
- Want to know what love is? Look at the cross.

**Topic:** b) How do we love others?

b) Once there was an empty cup sitting in the middle of the desert. It was very hot and all around the cup were people dying of thirst. The cup felt very bad for the people and wanted to give them a drink but he couldn't because he was empty. Then one day it started to rain. It rained all day. The rain filled the cup with cool water. Now he was able to give the people a drink.

- In order to love others we have to know how much God loves us and be filled with His love.

## **John 15: 14-15**

**Topic:** a) Is God our friend?

a) There was once a boy who was wandering around in a field. It was very hot out and the boy was getting weak and tired. Suddenly he came upon a huge tree. The tree said to the boy, "Come sit under me and I will be your shade." The boy sat in the cool shade of the tree and immediately felt better. Not only did the tree give the boy shade but it let the boy eat the fruit that grew on it. At night when it got cold the tree gave the boy some of its wood to build a fire. The tree let little animals live in it so the boy wouldn't get lonely. The tree also let the boy climb way up in its branches. Up in the top of the tree it seemed that the boy could see forever.

- Was the tree just shade or was it more than that?
- God is more than a friend.

**Topic:** b) How can we be Gods friend?

b) James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

b) Once there was a puppy who wanted to be friends with a little girl. The puppy followed the little girl everywhere she went. If she went to school the puppy was with her and waited for her. If she went to the playground the puppy was with her. If she went to the store, the puppy was with her. If she was just sitting on her front porch, the puppy was with her. Wherever the girl went, the puppy went too.

- Was the puppy her friend?
- How do you know? ( He was always with her)
- God is always with us. If we obey Him then we're with Him.

## **John 15: 16-17**

**Topic:** a) Should we be thankful?

a) There was a lady who wanted to put a flower in her garden. She went to the garden store and looked at all the flowers. There were huge brightly colored ones that smelled really good. Then way in the back there was a tiny scraggily looking plant. As the lady went through picking up the plants and looking at them, the scraggily plant thought that he would never be picked to go in someone's garden. Just then the lady came to the scraggily plant. She picked it up, looked at it, smiled and bought him. She took him home, planted him and took good care of him so he could grow. The little plant was sooooo thankful.

- You are like that little plant
- God has chosen you to live forever with Him.
- Have you thanked Him?

**Topic:** b) Why did God choose you?

b) The lady who bought the scraggily little plant took it home. She dug a nice hole in her garden for it. She planted it and watered it. She went out every day to give it some plant food and make sure no weeds grew around it. Soon the little plant began to grow. It grew into a big beautiful plant. People came from all around just to look at it because it was so beautiful.

- God has chosen you and loves you so that your life will shine and people will want to know your God.

## **John 15: 18-25**

**Topic:** a) Why would anyone hate Jesus?

a) Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. God told them what to bring Him for a sacrifice. Abel did what God said. Cain didn't bring what God wanted, he brought what he wanted to bring. God would not accept this because Gods way is life and he wanted Cain and Abel to live. Cain got angry. He hated God and he hated Abel. He did not want Gods way. He wanted his way and he hated anyone who went Gods way.

- Whose way will you choose?
- The world was in sin and darkness. Then Jesus came. Now we have a choice.

## **John 15: 26-27**

**Topic:** a) Let your light shine.

a) There were a bunch of creatures living in a dark cave. One day one of the creatures found a flashlight on the floor of the cave. It was dropped by some people who were there. The creature picked up the flashlight, looked at it, put it in his mouth and swallowed it. He went back to his creature friends. Now every time he opened his mouth, light would come out. Now all the other creatures wanted to be around him.

- Why did the other creatures want to be around him?
- The Holy Spirit lives in us who believe.
- Whenever we open our mouths or do anything...it should show people the love of God.