



FCA Elementary

Who is the True Vine?

Remain in Me, and I in you
just as a branch is unable
to produce fruit by itself
unless it remains on the
vine, neither can you unless
you remain in me.
John 15:4

Workout: Who is the true vine?

Has anyone ever asked you to “prove it?” Maybe you are arguing with a friend or trying to determine who is the fastest.

How do you “prove it”? You tie your shoes and start running fast. Proving something is just applying the evidence.

God has done so much to prove He loves us and wants a relationship with us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins, something we really needed God to do because we could not do it on our own.

What is sin? Sin is when we do things our way instead of God’s way. This looks like disobeying, lying, hurting others, and being selfish. Think of a garden: there are bound to be weeds in it. The way our hearts come when we are born, they are like a garden growing up with weeds that spread out and choke the good plants that are trying to grow.

Would you want weeds in your garden? Think of some weeds that might grow in the lives of athletes: bad habits such as bullying other kids on the team, talking back to the coach, or even calling others names when they don’t do well. These weeds take over the garden of an athlete’s heart, not allowing anything good to grow, only sharp thorns that prick them and others. Our hearts need to be tended by a gardener, and that’s too much for us to handle on our own.

In John 15:1, Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.” Jesus is speaking, and He is the Vine. He is our connection to life. His life made it possible for us to have a relationship with the Father.

Warm Up A Game of Tag

When you play tag, someone else is always running to tag you again, right? That is what life on Earth is like with sin. We’re tagged as sinners, stuck in our current position, and unable to break ourselves free. Jesus frees us, and then we are free to run!

Sin continues to tag us in life, but as we flee with Christ, we help our fellow teammates to be free too!

How hard was it not to get tagged?



Gardener. He is the TRUE vine. There are many other things that try to act as vines (sources of life) in this world: entertainment, money, food, sports, relationships, being the coolest kid in your neighborhood, but all these things do not have life in them.

They don't provide the true life that empowers us to live and grow the way God has planted us to do.

The Father is the gardener; He's the one who tends to us. Just like your coach works with you to help you grow stronger as an athlete, God tends to our hearts and helps us to grow as His people. He guides us to be the best athletes on His team. He is like a gardener who provides water and necessary nutrients so that all the plants can grow to become what they were put in the garden in the first place.

What are some nutrients (things we need) in order to grow? Athletes need to drink plenty of water, eat their fruits and vegetables, get enough rest, and exercise daily so they can stay healthy. They must also look out for weeds (bad habits) that keep them from growing into the athlete they are capable of becoming!

God is the gardener of our hearts. He provides for our needs, our growth, and He helps us pull up the things in our lives that keep us from growing into who He planted us to be.

Workout: Who is the true vine?

What would happen if you and your coach switched places for the day? How fun would that be! But being a coach is not easy. Your coach is older and knows more about your sport than you do. That is why he signed up to be a coach: to teach you how to be better at your sport and help you grow with your team.

Our verse today is spoken by Jesus. In it, He gives us our roles. He is the Vine. We are the branches. The Vine tells the branches how to grow, just like the coach tells the athlete how to play.

Connect

Remain in Me, and I in you, just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in Him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. John 15:4-5

Warm Up

Spend time with God

Because you spent time asking questions and seeking answers, you now know someone better. Spending time with and listening to someone helps your relationship grow stronger. The same thing happens when we talk and listen to God!



THE FOUR

The Four is the Gospel explained in four simple truths

- God loves you
- Sin separates you
- Jesus rescues you
- Will you trust in Jesus?

What would happen if a team did not have a coach? They would be lost in the game. A team needs a coach to teach them the rules of the game. They need someone to help them practice and master the skills needed for the game. They need someone to guide them as the game plays out, someone to encourage them when they get tired and do not want to play anymore.

That is what Jesus does for us in life. When we remain in Him, He provides for our every need and teaches us what we need to know. Just like a coach, He teaches the rules of life. They are found in the Bible. They tell us how to treat others, how to love Him, and how to live our lives. He helps us grow good things in our hearts and not weeds (bad habits).

When you listen to your coach, do you play better or worse? Jesus tells us if we remain in Him, we will produce much fruit. Just like if we listen and obey our coach, we perform better and are a better athlete. The more time we spend listening to Jesus, the more fruitful our lives will be.

What is your coach teaching you today to help you better perform in your sport? Are you listening to and obeying them or doing things in your own way? An athlete can do nothing without the coach. We must remember our place on the team and not be prideful by rejecting help and instruction when we need it. John 15:2 tells us God prunes every branch that produces fruit so it will produce more fruit. Pruning is when the gardener cuts off the unhealthy part of the branch to allow it to produce more fruit. We must be willing to listen to our coach and Jesus in the areas we need to improve.

Is it easy or hard to change bad habits? It might be hard to hear from your coach on how you can improve. When we listen and do what our coach asks us to do and what God asks us to do, our skill will grow and our hearts will be filled. Our lives will benefit from this.

Wrap Up

- God proved His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus to die for our sins
- Jesus is the Vine. God the Father is the Gardener. We are the branches.
- We need to listen and obey God. He is the coach and we are the athletes. We need Him because He provides for our every need and teaches us all we need to know.

Cool Down

When we are on Jesus' team, we should choose to share how incredible that is with others (John 15:12-17)

- What does this Scripture say about God?
- What does it say about people?
- By God's grace, how will you obey God's Word this week?
- Whom will you share this Scripture passage with?
- What are you thankful for
- What are you struggling with?
- How did you obey God last week?