



I AM THE TRUE VINE

**Memory verse: John 15:1 (NIV)**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.'

Key passage: John 15:1-17 (NIV)**BIG QUESTION: DO YOU LIKE WINNING?**

We all want to succeed don't we? I mean no one starts a game by hoping to lose! I went to Wembley the other day to watch Exeter City in the final of the play offs. They actually ended up losing 3-1 and although they often lose (that's the life of an Exeter City fan) I never start watching any match thinking 'Oooh, I really hope we lose today'. No, everyone wants to see good results. You want to see your team win!

This week's memory verse is from a passage where Jesus is telling a story to explain how a believer can win at following Him and just like a fan, God wants to see good results in your life. Jesus says that He is the vine and we are the branches. A successful branch is one that's full of fruit. Fruits are good results from your life, things that score a goal for God's team, like telling your friend about Jesus or being kind to someone at school. When we get a result or bear fruit it furthers God's work in our world. This is what the Father is after and He eagerly stands on the touchline cheering us on.

SOMETHING TO DO

Why don't you play coin football together? You'll need seven coins and a table to play on. Set up two coins either end of the table to represent the goal posts. You then have one coin each side that represents the player and a coin in the middle for the football. You kick the ball by flicking your player at the ball. If you hit the ball you get another go. If you hit the opposing player it's a foul.

The Father cheers us on but He's also our coach. A coach will work on His teams' game; He'll train his successful players and transfer the bad ones. He'll develop even His best players with hard training tactics to get the best results out of them. James spoke about this when he said 'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything' (James 1:2-4, NIV). Wow! That all sounds like hard work, but really it isn't. In fact the branch doesn't do any work, all the branch does is stay connected to the vine. That's it! Fruit comes from connection to the vine. Stay connected to Jesus, get to know Him, cling to Him, draw strength and nourishment from Him. The branch needs the vine, it can't produce fruit on it's own. You need Jesus! You can't produce fruit on your own, because fruit comes from connection to Jesus.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- What results could you see in your life this week?
- How can you get connected to Jesus today?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I want to be connected to you today. Fill me with strength and nourishment so that I can bear loads of fruit. Amen.

