



Family Worship

## **Abide in Me**

### ***Reading***

Prepare to read aloud the Lord's words in the gospel of John 15:4-12.

### ***Advance Preparation***

It might be helpful to print a color picture of a grapevine or find a vine to bring indoors—preferably one that is fruitful and not poisonous.

### ***Discussion Ideas***

- ◆ Verse 4: What do the words “Abide in Me, and I in you” mean? How can we abide in the Lord? Literally, this means to reside or remain in the Lord. To abide in the Lord—to let the Lord draw near us—we must look to Him, obey His commandments, serve Him by serving others, and acknowledge that He is the only source of all that is good and true.
- ◆ Verse 5: How does abiding in the Lord make it possible for us to bear fruit? Look at an actual vine or a picture of a grapevine, and have your children identify which parts are meant by “the vine” and its “branches.” The vine supports all the branches and gives them life by carrying food and nutrients to them. And it is the Lord who gives us life and inspires us to bear fruit—to do good things for other people.
- ◆ Verse 6: What is the opposite of abiding in the Lord? It is looking to one's self as the source of good and truth rather than the Lord and serving others only as a means of serving self. Look at what happens to the branch when it is no longer connected to the vine. (If you cut a vine branch ahead of time, everyone will be able to observe what happens—the vine starts to dry out and wither.)
- ◆ Notice how many times the phrases “abide in Me” or “abide in My love” are repeated in John 15:4-12. (You may want to ask the children to count the occurrences as the passage is read aloud.)
- ◆ Look at verse 10 to see *how* we can abide in the Lord's love. We need to obey the commandments, don't we? Obeying the Lord's commandments and turning away from evil makes us receptive of His love so that we can abide in the Vine.

## Photos of Vineyards



