

supper-table, and the disciples clustered about Jesus, listening to his words.

The Vine and its Fruit. Show the bunch of grapes. Tell that in the land where Jesus lived there were many vineyards, or fields of grapevines. There were men to take care of the vineyards; they were called husbandmen. They tended the vines carefully, cut off sickly branches, and pulled off the leaves which shut the sunlight away from the fruit. All this care was given so that the vine might bear plenty of rich, good fruit. Hold up the withered branch by the side of the bunch of grapes. Ask if children think such a branch could bear such fruit. Show the living branch. What makes the difference between the two? Teach that the life is in the vine. The branches which get away from the vine lose their life and can bear no fruit. Only good branches, which have the life of the vine in them, can bear good fruit.



The True Vine. [Print on the board, "I am the vine."] Jesus said these words to his disciples, and to us. He meant that he was like the vine which has the life in it for all the branches. [Print, "Ye are the branches."] What ails this dead branch?

Yes, it was cut off from the vine. It could get no more life, and so it died. What will become of this branch which looks so green and beautiful now? It will wither and die too, because the life can no longer flow into it.

[Sketch rapidly, as you talk, a vine with branches, leaves, and fruit. If you do not feel that you can draw in the presence of the class, have a picture already on the board, covered until you need to use it.]

The Branches. We will name this branch "Mary," and this "Willie," and this large, strong one "Henry." Here is a tiny one that we will name "Clara." Jesus knows the names of all his little branches. He is watching them every day to see if they are alive and healthy and bearing fruit. I am going to tell you about some of these branches, but I shall not tell you the names of the branches about which I tell you these true stories.

A nice, strong-looking branch grows on this vine. What large, beautiful leaves it bears! This branch loves to make a show and to seem to be what it is not. "I wouldn't put just a penny in the missionary box," says this little branch; "see, I've brought a half-dollar!" But this same boy would not give his orange to a poor sick boy or deny himself to put pennies in the missionary box. You do not see any clusters of nice fruit on this branch. No, there are only leaves.

This is a plain, poor-looking little branch. You do not think it can bear fruit. But in a poor

home, where there is a tired mamma and a hard-working papa, this little living branch of the true Vine, Jesus, is all the time bearing beautiful fruit of loving words and helpful deeds! Jesus hears and sees it all, and he keeps the branch alive with his own strong, sweet life!

[In some such way help the children to see that right tempers and acts are the fruit of which Jesus speaks.]

Practical Lessons. How may we be sure that we are bearing fruit? Print "Abide in me." This is what Jesus says. What is it to "abide" in Jesus? Read verse 10. Love, trust, obey Jesus.

Pride, anger, selfishness, all that is wrong, help to cut branches off from the Vine. If we stay close by Jesus—abide in him—he will help us to get rid of these ugly things.

OPTIONAL HYMNS.

No. 1.

All for thee.
O holy Saviour.
My Jesus, as thou wilt.
Since Jesus is my friend.
Seeds of promise.

No. 2.

All are mine.
The banner of the cross.
Jesus, only Jesus.
Trusting in Jesus.
Give me the Bible.
The leaves of life.
I am resting.

The Lesson Catechism.

[For the entire school.]

1. What does Jesus say he is? "**I am the true vine.**"
2. What does he tell us to do? **To abide in him.**
3. What shall be the result of abiding in Christ? **Much fruit.**
4. What does Christ call those who obey him? **His friends.**
5. What is the GOLDEN TEXT? "**Herein is my Father glorified,**" etc.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

24. Does God care for you?
I know that He cares for me, and watches over me always by His Providence.
25. What is the Providence of God?
The Providence of God is His preservation of all His creatures, His care for all their wants, and His rule over all their actions.