

## NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was *GOD the Gardener & JESUS the Vine!*

This parent info sheet can be used by you at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your children and help them to get the most out of it.

The 'main ideas' section of this parent info sheet has been designed especially for you to enter into meaningful discussion with your children. This week the questions build one on another.

To help your children really share what is in their hearts and minds with you, and so YOU can actively build faith and wisdom into them, when it comes to the 'Ask' points, take care to not rush them... give them time to think and respond and really show them you are listening and that you understand.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at [luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church](mailto:luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church)

God bless you!

## Family Ice Breaker – Dig, Plant, Water, Prune, Eat!

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

Today we watched as Noah planted some mint. He had one minute to dig, plant, water, prune, and eat. He made it! Well done Noah!

*You might like to plant (or plan to plant) some herbs at home, and sample them.*

You might just like to get some fruits and vegetables or fruit juice from your fridge to enjoy together, and as you do; use the internet together to search images of the plants they came from. You could talk about the care of the plant that is needed to bring it to 'fruitfulness' - ready for eating.

Whatever you do, have fun!

## Scripture Memory Verses - to read and memorise at meal times

[ use any version you like; we have provided the Amplified Version (AMP) in the Scripture readings in the family discussion notes as it has built into it much explanation. For memorisation (below) we have provided the simpler *New Living Translation (NLT)* ]

### John 15:5-6

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch, and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

### John 15:1-2

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more."

### John 15:8

When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.

### Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

### Discussion introduction:

**Ask:** Is there anything you like to learn about?

**If YES, ask:** What is it? Who teaches you about it?

**Ask:** What makes them a great teacher?

**Say:** When it comes to knowing how to live and love, Jesus is the expert because He has loved the deepest and the most...He loved so well that He died for every sinner so that they could live

**Ask:** When it comes to teaching people how to love and live, who is the BEST TEACHER?  
[ Jesus is the best teacher ]

**Say:** God sent Jesus to be our teacher. Jesus told us a parable about that, called 'Jesus is the Vine, His followers are the branches.'

### Scripture: John 15:1-11

**Say:** In John 15:1- it says: **I am the true Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser (gardener). Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He repeatedly prunes, so that it will bear more fruit, even richer and finer fruit than before.**

**You are already clean because of the word which I have given you (the teachings which I have discussed with you).**

**Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches.**

**The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for otherwise, apart from Me (that is, cut off from vital union with Me) you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a broken off branch that withers and dies; and they gather such branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**

**If you remain in Me and My words remain in you (that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart) ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.**

**My Father is glorified and honored by this; when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My true disciples.**

**I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love (and do not doubt My love for you).**

**If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love.**

**I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.**

**Ask:** Who is the gardener? [ God ]

**Ask:** Who is the vine? [ Jesus...God planted Him inside Mary, who gave birth to Him, and He grew up to be a strong man and great teacher. ]

**Ask:** Who are the branches? [ We are! - we are His true disciples ]

**Ask:** What makes a person a true disciple of Jesus? [ we learn what Jesus has to teach us, and we do it ]

**Ask:** What is the fruit? [ not actual fruit that we eat, but the good things that come of our life that are like Jesus ]

**Say:** Ps Luke tried to plant a lemon tree, and it did not go so well. He was not as good a gardener as God. God is a perfect gardener.

**Ask:** Have you ever tried to plant something? How did it go?



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

**Say: 1. Jesus wants us to STAY CONNECTED to HIM.**

*Scripture: John 15:5-6*

**Say:** In John 15:5-6 it says: **I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for (otherwise) apart from Me (that is, cut off from vital union with Me) you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a branch (broken off), that withers and dies; and they gather such branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**

**Ask:** Have you ever seen a branch not connected to a vine, tree or bush grow and produce fruit? [ No! It cannot feed from the roots to get water and grow ]

**Say: 2. We need to TRUST that GOD is a good, good GARDENER.**

*Scripture: John 15:1-2*

**Say:** In SCRIPTURE it says: **I am the true Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser (gardener). Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He repeatedly prunes, so that it will bear more fruit that is even richer and finer fruit than before.**

**Say:** What happens to the branches that don't bear fruit or get diseased? [ They get cut off/pruned and get thrown away or burned in a fire. ]

**Ask:** Would it be good for the gardener to leave the useless branches on? [ No! It just drinks the water and gets bigger but doesn't give fruit, and if diseased it could harm the whole plant ]

**Say:** God may remove certain people, possessions and activities from our lives for our good, so that we don't fall away from Him - this can be hard to accept when it is happening.

**Ask:** What might need to be removed from your life, to help you to not lose your faith and focus on Jesus? [ you may need to help them with this, and help them come up with a plan to help them be willing to give it up to God. Encourage them with an example from your own life of when giving something up made you happier in Jesus. ]

**Say: 3. We need to PRODUCE FRUIT like JESUS.**

*Scripture: John 15:8*

**Say:** In John 15:8 it says: **My Father is glorified and honored by this; when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My true disciples.**

**Ask:** Can a tree of one kind produce fruit of another kind? [ No! Apple trees produce apples, Orange trees produce oranges, Banana trees produce bananas, Pumpkin vines produce pumpkins, and Grapevines produce grapes ]

**Ask:** Is there anything you can do to produce the kind of fruit that comes with being connected to Jesus? [ We can pray, and read the WORD of God (Bible) to learn how to have the heart and mind of Jesus - so that thinking and acting like Jesus will come naturally. ]

*Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23*

**Say:** In Galatians 5:22-23 it says:

**But the fruit of the Spirit (the result of His presence within us) is:**

\* **LOVE** - unselfish concern for others, seeing others as God sees them and treating others as Jesus would,

\* **JOY** - gladness/happiness (no matter how bad our situation is)

\* **PEACE** - inner peace, fearing nothing, resting in our ability to trust God

\* **PATIENCE** - not just the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting (holding faith even as we may suffer for a long time, persevering, enduring wrong treatment for the sake of the Gospel, being slow in avenging wrongs)

\* **KINDNESS** - living to benefit (help) others and giving kind responses

...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

- \* **GOODNESS** - moral goodness, integrity, doing no harm or wrong to others, uprightness of heart and moral valor
- \* **FAITHFULNESS** - assurance, absolute belief, convinced of the truth of God – that He is Creator, that Jesus is Savior, the coming resurrection and Heaven, understanding what is good and evil according to God and agreeing wholeheartedly.
- \* **GENTLENESS** - giving kind responses (not harsh)
- \* **SELF-CONTROL** - mastering strong emotions and evil desires, having a controlled strength that is used appropriately

**Against such things there is no law.**

**Say:** Jesus has all these fruits of the Holy Spirit. He is the vine. Anyone connected to Him will become more and more like Him...maybe not straight away, but definitely over time. Other people will begin to see these things in their life.

**Ask:** What kind of good fruit is coming out of your life? [ if they are having trouble thinking of some, tell them what fruits you have seen in their life and give specific situational examples. ]

**Ask:** What kind of not so good fruit (what is opposite to the fruits of the Spirit) is coming out of your life? [ if they are having trouble thinking of some, gently tell them what not so good fruit you have seen in their life and give specific situational examples - it is very important that you encourage them that the not so good fruits do not define them or make them less valuable...Jesus knows all about it already and has promised to help them with it...He sent the Holy Spirit to help us. Take this opportunity to pray with them that they will remember to pray when they find it difficult, and to read the Word to have more of the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ about this issue. ]

**Sum up:**

**The Quiz**

1. God is like a Gardener who plants a seed for things to... [ grow ]
2. Jesus wants us to stay connected to... [ Him ]
3. We need to trust that God is a...  
[ good good Father, good good gardener, and good good friend ]
4. God prunes us because...  
[ He wants to take away the things that are not helpful ]
5. We need to produce fruit like...  
[ love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control ]
6. Weeds are good for... [ nothing ]
7. What tree did Ps Luke try to plant? [ a lemon tree ]
8. Who is the greatest teacher of all? [ Jesus ]

**Say: Say after me:**

- \* I will stay connected to Jesus!      \* Jesus is the BEST teacher!
- \* I learn HOW to live from Him!      \* I will TRUST God that He knows what is BEST for me!
- \* I will PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT!

**Let's Pray!**

Dear Heavenly Father... Thank You that in Jesus' Name we have everything we need. We have the Word of God to tell us what Jesus wants to teach us, and we have the Holy Spirit to help us. Thank You that if we stay connected to Jesus we will produce Jesus fruit. Please help us to always stay connected to Jesus. Remind us that we need Jesus and the Holy Spirit; we can't produce good fruit on our own. We trust that what God gives us, and takes away, will be to help us ...in Jesus' name, Amen!

