

## The True Vine and the Examine

1. What are we preparing for? (*First Reconciliation, First Communion*)
2. Who is helping you to prepare? (*God, catechist, parents, Holy Spirit, etc.*)
3. This last month in Lift we heard about the True Vine.
4. I want to read that for you today and talk about it some more... (*John 15:1-5, 7-11*)

### Part One:

#### Who is...

1. Who does Jesus say that he is?
2. Who are we?
3. The True vine needs help growing- who is the Vine Grower?
4. How do the vine's branches receive what it needs - the food and nutrients? It's a sticky liquid in the vine... (*sap*)
5. What does this sap do? (*Brings life to all the branches*)
6. Could a branch live without it?
7. It does not say this, but I wonder... if maybe the sap in the True Vine is the Holy Spirit... who gives life and grace...

#### Remain...

1. What word did Jesus say many times?
2. What does it mean to remain?
3. How do we remain again? (*By keeping his Commandments*)
4. What does Jesus say will happen when we remain with him? (*We will bear fruit and have complete joy*)
5. I wonder what complete joy is like...
6. What kind of fruit would come from the branches that remain? (*Gal 5:22-23: Fruits of the Spirit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, etc.*)
7. In this parable, when we see beautiful fruit, who gets the glory?
8. The words "bearing fruit" are mentioned 5 times and remaining is 10 times. Hmm..

**When they are ready, continue to part two... this could mean right now... it could mean to review the first part tomorrow or next week and then move on.**

## **Part Two:**

1. Have you ever seen a branch on the vine that is not as beautiful?
2. A branch that was not getting enough sap? (*Sick ones stand out since they can be a different color or brown*)
3. What is needed for the sick branches to become healthy again? (Sap)
4. Do you think the True Vine or Vine Grower would not give enough sap? (*No.*)
5. If not the True Vine, then what happened that there is not enough sap? (*The branch is not remaining.*)
6. Maybe there is a block. The sap cannot flow through to it to give it life. (*Can use analogy of a water hose that has a kink in it.*)
7. We talked about that we are branches on the Vine.
8. We talked about remaining and bearing good, amazing fruit.
9. Maybe sometimes our branch blocks to the sap...
10. Who puts up these blocks to the sap? (*We do.*)
11. Did you know that people all over the world examine their branch to see if there is any blocks? This is called an examination of conscience.
12. Do you know what can help us examine our branch?
  - a. The maxims can help us. These are short sayings that help us to know if we are living the Two Great Commands: Love God & Love Your Neighbor
  - b. The Commandments can help us.
  - c. Looking at our day and seeing the times we did not love God or others around us...
13. People all over the world do this daily, usually in the evening.
14. You can write it down on a little notebook... so you can confess them at confession.

15. When we put up a block to the sap we call this sin. What a great God we have that helps us get rid of these blocks so we can remain, and the sap can flow.
16. You get to keep a few papers that have the Maxims, Commandments and the Examine on them, along with the words and parts of confession and we should be practicing these steps before the First Reconciliation date.
17. All of this will be displayed at each confessional and if father will be there to help you every step of the way.

Over the next couple weeks, go over the steps of Reconciliation, go over the examine, and talk with your child about sin and mercy.