

This weeks **MEMORY VERSE!**

To learn it well, **READ** it, or **WRITE** it **EACH DAY** after your lesson! Then say it to someone you know!

John 15:5

**I (*Jesus*) am the vine;
you are the branches,
for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

What is Jesus compared to? _____

Who are the branches? _____

Can we do anything without Jesus help? _____

* Italic added



Jesus was _____ when the storm came.

The _____ obeyed when He said "Be quiet."

Print *TRUE* or *FALSE* on the line after each statement.

1. Jesus had the power to help the boy. _____

2. The father didn't believe Jesus could help his son.

Name _____

Jesus Trains His Disciples

John 15:1-5; Matthew 4:18-22;
Mark 4:35-41; 9:14-29; Luke 6:12-16



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MI Bible Clubs
2012 28th St. S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616-457-3840



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One evening after a very busy day Jesus and some of His disciples got into a boat to cross the lake. Jesus had spent a whole day teaching and helping large crowds of people, and He was very tired. He went to the back of the boat and lay down. The lake was calm and smooth as they left the shore. The lake breezes and the smooth motion of the boat gently rocked the tired body of Jesus as He slept.

Before long the wind blew harder, the clouds grew darker, the waves became higher, and soon the little boat was tossing around in the grip of a severe storm. Some of the disciples had grown up on this lake and were good sailors; but soon they became frightened, for they could not manage the boat. It started filling with water, but Jesus, unconcerned with the storm, was still asleep in the back of the boat.

Finally, the disciples woke Him up. They said, “Master, Master, don’t you care that we are in danger of drowning?”

Jesus immediately stood up, faced the raging wind and sea, and said firmly, “Be quiet!” He had made the sea, He had made the wind, and He had power over them. At once the wind died down, the waves quieted into little ripples, and there was a great calm.

When everything was quiet and the boat was moving along gently again, Jesus said to His disciples, “Why were you so very afraid? Don’t you yet have faith to trust Me?” It was as if He were saying to them, “Couldn’t you trust me to take care of you? Don’t you yet understand that I am the Son of God with ALL power? You have seen Me do many miracles and still you could not trust Me.”

The disciples looked at one another and said, “What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey Him!” They had not yet fully realized that Jesus was God and could be trusted to care for them. They had failed the test of faith, but they would never forget this lesson.

One day Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. The other disciples stayed behind. Soon a large crowd of people gathered around them.

In the crowd was a worried father and his very troubled son. Satan had caused an evil spirit to take charge of the young boy’s mind and body. He was not able to speak. Sometimes he would act very strangely, as if he did not know what he was doing. Sometimes he would fall into the cooking fire or into the water, so his parents had to watch him all the time. This had been going on for years, and the father and mother were heartbroken. They had never heard of anyone who could heal this kind of sickness.

Then one day they heard that the great Teacher who could heal people was in their area! So the father decided to take his young son to Jesus to be healed. When they joined the crowd that day, they discovered that Jesus was not there. The desperate father then asked the disciples who were there if they would heal his son.

The disciples had seen Jesus heal many people. They wanted to help the boy. People had gathered around to watch. The disciples tried to put their hands on him and commanded the evil spirit to leave, as they had seen Jesus do, but nothing happened. The boy was just as sick as ever.

Then they saw Jesus coming back. When He heard what had happened, He said, “Bring the young boy to Me.”

Then He spoke, not to the boy, but to the evil spirit or demon that was in him. “I command you to come out of him!” At once the evil spirit left the boy, and he was cured.

Later when the disciples were alone with Jesus, they asked Him, “Why couldn’t we cast the spirit out? Why did we fail?”

Jesus said to them, “Evil spirits can only be cast out by prayer. They do not come out easily.” The disciples had thought they could do this by themselves. Jesus wanted them to learn that they could not do His work by themselves, but only as they trusted Him. They had failed this test too. But they learned a great lesson—it helped them to see that all the power was in Jesus, and not in them. They were beginning to understand His teaching that they were “the branches” and He is truly “the vine.” They could not do the things that Jesus did unless He was with them.