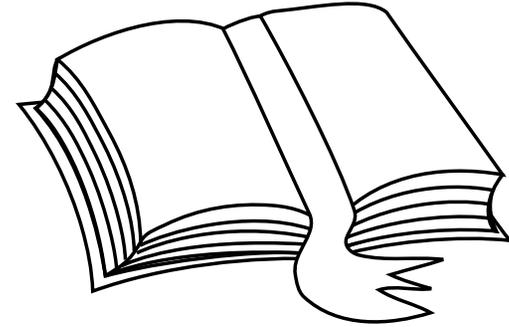


Leviticus 11.

- B. Unclean items included certain kinds of meat, animals that had died (by themselves), blood, dead bodies, etc.
- C. When something was unclean (lepers, for instance), it was not to be touched. If it was touched, there was a ritual to restore cleanliness.

NOTES



JESUS THE VINE

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. In your culture, which relationships are generally considered the strongest and most important? Does this change because of age or sex?
- B. What are the most important benefits people receive from these relationships? What do they give to the relationship?

SECTION II. Read John 15:1-2, 5.

- A. What or who does Jesus say that He is? Who is the Father? Who are the branches of the grape vine in this parable (story)?
- B. What does it mean to be a branch? How does it make you feel when you think of yourself as a branch?
- C. Our passage says that God the Father does two things to the grapevines. What are they? Why do you think He would do that?

SECTION III. Read John 15:3. What does Jesus mean here by *clean*?

A. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. How do Christians become acceptable to God today?

B. Read John 15:4-5.

1. What does Jesus say we must do to produce fruit?
2. What do you think He means by produce fruit?

SECTION IV. How can we *live in or remain in* Christ?

A. Read the following passages and find out how we can do that.

1. 1 John 2:24
2. 1 John 3:24
3. 1 John 4:15-16

B. Read John 15:5-12.

1. When we live in Christ, what are the results? See John 15 verses 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12.

JESUS IS THE VINE LEADER'S NOTES

SECTION I.

These two questions are intended to help internationals think about the strongest relationships in their lives. What is typical of relationships in their culture? Why is this relationship the strongest? What does each person in the relationship contribute or expect? The focus of the lesson is our relationship with Jesus.

SECTION II.

Vines, grapes and vineyards were important parts of the Jewish culture at the time of Jesus. Grapes (and wine) were an important part of the diet, and raisins were an important source of sugar in the diet.

- In the Bible, vineyards and grapevines were important figurative images.
- Vineyards were a symbol for God's chosen people, the Israelites.
- The grapevine symbolized prosperity and peace.
- Vineyards were usually surrounded by protecting walls, keeping out unwanted animals and thieves.
- Vineyards that were unproductive were usually cleared and a new vineyard begun. Each year the vines were pruned to make more fruit grow. Grapes are only produced on new growth, so pruning is very important. The vines and branches that were cut off were dried and thrown into the fire.

C. *My Father takes care of the vineyard* describes how God cares for his people.

SECTION III.

Clean in the Old Testament and early in the New Testament meant that something was presentable to God according to the teachings of Moses.

A. God clearly differentiated between clean and unclean in the Old Testament. He gave specific instructions in

Hebrews 11:6

faith	belief that does not rely only on logical proof or material evidence
exists	to be real
rewards	gives
seek	to try to find or discover something

2. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What do these verses say are the results of living in Christ?
3. Read John 15:5 again. Can we produce fruit and do good apart from Jesus? Why not? (Read Hebrews 11:6)
4. How did Jesus live in the Father's love and how do we live in Jesus' love? (John 15: 9-10)

SECTION V. Do we depend on Jesus in all things, as a branch would depend on the main grapevine? If not, why not?

SECTION VI. What fruits (results) of your relationship with Jesus have you seen in your life? How can we increase the fruits we produce?

**VOCABULARY FOR
JESUS THE VINE**

John 15:1-2

vine	a grapevine. The grape plant (vine) has a stem and long branches that bend. A grapevine usually needs to be supported as it climbs along a surface.
vineyard	a field that has been planted with grapevines
prune	to cut—this cutting (pruning) is done in a way that helps a plant produce the most fruit
branch	a secondary stem or limb growing from the main stem of a plant
produce	to bring forth or yield—America <i>produces</i> many vegetables and fruits

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

wicked	evil, very bad
inherit	to receive money or property from someone who has died
deceiving	to trick someone into believing something false or bad
commit	to do something wrong
abusive	using or treating someone in an incorrect way, leading to injury or hurt
holy	sacred (set apart), pure

approval	the act of thinking (and often saying) that what was done was good, or that a person is thought of favorably
----------	--

1 John 2:24

message	Good News that Jesus Christ is the Savior
---------	---

1 John 3:24

obey	follow
commandments	rules, laws
Spirit	Holy Spirit, third person of the triune God

1 John 4:15

declare	to announce publicly
---------	----------------------

John 15:5-12

glory	honor and praise
disciples	people who believe in and follow Jesus
joyful	filled with deep happiness

Galatians 5:22-23

spiritual nature	not physical, not mental, but pertaining to God
patience	able to bear long waiting
gentleness	considerate, kind
self-control	able to control one's own behavior