Day 11  
The Vine

*I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.... I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. John 15:1 & 5*

Have you ever seen a grape vine? Perhaps you have seen another kind of vine. A vine grows and grows and all along it, branches lead off in different directions. These branches often have leaves and in the case of a grape vine, bunches of grapes. That’s if, and it’s a very big if, the branches stay connected to the vine. You can’t get bunches of grapes if the branches get broken off from the vine.

Can you think why?

All the nutrients travel along the sap of the vine into the branches so the branches can stay healthy and grow and produce fruit.

The gardener who tends the grape vine works hard so the branches get as much nutrition from the vine as possible. He may trim or prune the branches back, but if the branches are to stay alive, they must stay connected to the vine.

Jesus uses this visual aid of the vine and the branches and applies it to himself. He is like the vine. He is the one who has the life-giving energy within himself to give life to his followers. His followers are like the branches. What happens when they stay connected to Jesus, who is the vine? They stay healthy in loving God, they grow in becoming like Jesus, and they produce the fruit of real change in their lives.

Did you notice that Jesus adds the word ‘true’ to the vine? Jesus is the true vine. We can’t be the people of God without Jesus because he is God’s true vine.

Jesus also makes it very personal. He says, ‘remain in me’. This is all about staying close to Jesus. What an amazing invitation! So next time you see a vine, think of Jesus and his invitation to stay close to him.