**THE VINE**

**PREP**

Find a small potted houseplant or flower arrangement. Make the plant size appropriate for the size of your teaching area.

Several days before the service, cut a branch off of the plant. Place the branch in a Ziploc bag and leave it in the sun to dry and wither just a little.

**DEMONSTRATION**

Show students the houseplant or flower arrangement.

**Say:** Have any of you noticed all the plants and flowers blooming this time of year? Springtime is such a beautiful time because everything is coming back to life after the long winter. What does a plant need to survive and grow? (Pause for responses) What happens if the plant doesn’t have those things? (Pause for responses)

I have a branch that I removed from this plant just a few days ago. [Show dry, withered branch] Why do you think this branch is so dry and withered? (Pause for responses) This branch hasn’t received any water or air for the last few days. This branch needs to be connected to the plant to receive the nutrients it needs to stay healthy. Without being connected to the plant, this branch cannot live.

**OBJECT LESSON**

**Say:** At Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead makes all the lessons that He taught us even more special. These lessons He taught us were to prepare us for the day that Jesus would return to the Father in Heaven.

One of the most amazing lessons Jesus taught us is found in John 15. This lesson from Jesus came just before he was betrayed and arrested. Jesus said this to his disciples, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Jesus was reminding his disciples that the only way to experience the full life that God has planned for us is through Him. The only way to experience salvation is by believe in what Jesus did for us on the cross. The only way to know how we should live is to study what He taught us in the Bible and follow it.

Jesus is the vine that supplies life to us, the branches. If we are not connected to Him, we are like this branch [hold up withered branch] that is dry and withered. But if we’re connected to Him, he will supply all that we need for life.

**WRAP UP**

When you see the plants and flowers in bloom this Easter, remember that Jesus Christ is the vine that supplies life to us!