



# Reflecting Jesus - Staying Connected

## 3



### Before you start:

1. Prayerfully read through the whole lesson at least twice
2. Gather all the materials you need for each section (see right)
3. Work with another team member and plan who will manage each section of the session.

### Leadership Personal Preparation:

Think about a time in your life when your connection with Jesus made a powerful difference to you. Perhaps you can also remember a time when you weren't so connected with Jesus and something in your life suffered because the link was broken. What happened? What difference does being connected to God make to your life? If the Holy Spirit invites you to do so, be ready to tell the group about your experience at some time during the session. Otherwise, use your experience of being connected to Jesus, to inspire you as you lead out in today's session.

### You will need:

#### Icebreaker:

- One ball of string for each group of two or three families

#### Mission Possible:

- A small TV that plugs into an electrical wall socket
- A mobile phone
- A plant, especially one that looks like a grape vine
- A flip chart with paper and thick marker pens for each group

#### Word Search:

- Copy the different Word Search studies so that you have enough for everyone to have their own copy of their group's study
- Pens
- Copy a combined set of Word Search studies for each person to take away with them

#### Family Focus Time:

- Family Discussion Cards - 1 card per family
- Drinks and cups

#### Praying Together:

- One ball of string for each family

#### Jesus and Me (JAM) Session:

- CD player and CD of soft worship music
- One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant

#### Take-away Menu (optional):

- A length of electrical cable cut into short lengths - enough for each person to have a piece

### By the end of the session, the group members will:

- Know the four ways that they can connect with Jesus so that they can keep close to him and be disciple by him.
- Feel their personal need to build a closer connection with Jesus.
- Respond by acting on at least one idea that will help them to increase their connection with God during the next week.



# KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Staying Connected



## Welcome and Prayer – 5 mins

*Check that participants have brought their personal ring-binders*

## Say:

“ Did you know that the more closely connected you are to God, the more clearly your life will reflect the character of Jesus?

A kettle can only do what it has been created to do when it is plugged into an electric socket. It cannot function as a kettle without the power flowing through its cable. If we are truly to reflect Jesus, we need to be connected with him so that his power can flow into our lives.’ ”

## Icebreaker - 7 mins

*You will need:*

1. One ball of string for each group of two or three families
  - Divide the large group into smaller groups of 2-3 families.
  - Give each of these smaller groups a ball of string.
  - Ask the groups to stand in a circle with one person holding the ball of string.
  - The string holder asks a simple question like: ‘What’s your favourite dessert?’ and then throws the ball of string to someone, keeping hold of the end of the string.
  - The next person asks another general question and throws the ball again, keeping hold of the string as he does so.
  - As more questions are asked the group discovers more about each other and the string creates a web, connecting the different group members together.
  - Allow the groups enough time to make a strong web with their string.
  - When everyone is ‘tied’ together, stop the activity and ask the groups to think of all the different ways that the people in their group are connected – by the string, knowing more about each other, being related, going to the same church, living in the same town, loving each other, etc.
  - Then ask one person in each group to roll up their ball of string as you will need them for the prayer activity later.

## Mission Possible - 15 mins

*You will need:*

1. A small TV that plugs into an electrical wall socket
2. A mobile phone
3. A plant, especially one that looks like a grape vine
4. A flip chart with paper and thick marker pens for each group
  - Divide the participants into three groups.
  - Give one of the groups the TV, one the mobile phone and the other the vine to consider.
  - Give each group a flip chart and a set of marker pens. If you don’t have enough flip charts, give each of the groups a sheet of flip chart paper and let them use a table, or the floor, as a hard surface.
  - Ask them to think of all the ways the object they have been given is similar to, and different from, a healthy and positive Christian life.
  - Ask them to nominate a scribe to write down all of their ideas.
  - Give them 5 minutes to think of as many ideas as they can.
  - Ask everyone to return to the larger group.
  - Invite one person from each group to present the collected ideas that were inspired by each object.
  - After each group has made their presentation, give them some time to compare the different items they have been given. Ctd...





# KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Staying Connected



- How are the TV and phone similar?
- How are the TV and phone different?
- How are the TV and phone different to the vine or plant?

Affirm the groups for their creative thoughts and draw out some of the following ideas as they make their presentations:

## The TV

If you are watching television and someone accidentally pulls the plug out of the socket, the picture disappears immediately.

If you want sound and a picture, you have to have continuous power that stays at a constant level. The plug is very important because it connects the power supply to the television. Without the power the TV is completely useless.

The TV can only show what is transmitted by the television station.

The transmissions don't change the TV in any way.

## The Mobile Phone

Living as a Christian is not like running on batteries.

Your mobile phone runs on rechargeable batteries; you have to charge the batteries before the phone will work.

Once the battery goes flat, you have to plug the phone back into the mains charger, or it will stop working.

Some Christians think that life with God is like that – you can charge your batteries with God in the morning by praying and reading the Bible, and then let them run down during the day.

Some think that when your spiritual battery runs flat, you can wait and recharge it whenever you need it. But that can be a dangerous way of thinking about your life. You could have an emergency and have no power to deal with it.

Mobile phones help us to stay connected with other people who are important to us. We can talk to them at any time and in any place, just as we can pray to God wherever we are.

## The Vine Plant

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.

When we are connected to him, his nature is able to flow into us, and we will automatically bear fruit – because his character is now inside us.

We have to be connected at all times, because the moment we are disconnected, we cut ourselves off from fresh power.

When there is a 'power cut', we face the danger of trying to live like Christians without Christ.

Being a branch on his vine is more exciting than being like a plug-in TV which is just a processor of wireless impulses.

A vine is alive and changing, growing and fruiting. The images the TV transmits have no effect on the TV at all. It is dead.

But the vine is alive and that makes a huge difference to our ever-changing, vibrant life, when we remain connected with Jesus.





# KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Staying Connected



## Word Search – 25 mins

*You will need:*

1. Copies of the different Word Search studies so that you have enough for everyone to have their own copy of their group's study
  2. Pens
  3. Copy of a combined set of Word Search studies for each person to take away with them
- Give each family paper, pens and a copy of one of the Word Search study sheets. You can give each family more than one section or each section to more than one family, depending on how many families are present.
  - **Say:** 'We're going to explore a Bible passage to help us understand more about how we can be connected to God. I will give each family a different section. Read the introduction and then discuss the section you've been allocated. After 7 minutes we'll come back together and share what we've discovered.'
  - After 7 minutes, bring the group back together again and look at the numbered sections in turn.
  - Invite the groups to feedback the most important thoughts that came out of their family discussions.
  - Write their main points on a flip chart where everyone can see them and think about them.

## Family Focus - 15 mins

*You will need:*

1. Drinks and cups
  2. Family Discussion Cards - 1 card per family
- Let the families re-assemble into their groups, collecting a drink on their way.
  - Give each family a discussion card to pass around their circle. Each person can discuss a topic or answer one of the questions from the card. If they would prefer not to speak, they can pass it to the next person.

## Family Prayer Time – 15 mins

*You will need:*

1. One ball of string for each family
- Give each family a ball of string and ask them to stand in a circle as a family.
  - Ask them to hold onto the string each time they throw it to another person, so a web is created (as in the icebreaker game).
  - During the first round of throwing the string around the family (so that each person has a turn) each person needs to say a prayer sentence starting with 'I praise you God because...'
  - The second time they need to say a sentence starting with 'I'm sorry God that I...'
  - The third time they need to say 'Thank you God, for...'
  - The fourth time they need to make a prayer request 'Please God...'
  - When everyone has had a turn at each of the sentences the family can say 'Amen' together and roll up their string.
  - If anyone is shy about praying, they can pray their sentence silently for a moment or two and then throw the ball of string to the next person.





# KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Staying Connected



## JAM Session (Jesus and Me) – 5 mins

*You will need:*

1. One set of the Journal Pages for each person to take away
  - Give each person the journal pages for Session 3.
  - Allow 5 minutes for them to begin this activity and play some reflective, peaceful Christian music during this time. They can finish working on this at home if necessary, and reflect on it during the week.
  - Encourage them to keep these pages in their ring-binders.

## Take-away Menu – 5 mins

*You will need:*

1. A length of electrical cable cut into short lengths – enough for each person to have a piece
  - **“If we really abided in His love, we would come away feeling so nourished, so cherished, so liked, that we would rush back to him whenever we could.”**  
- Bruce Wilkinson, *The Secrets of the Vine*
  - Give each person a short piece of electrical cable. Explain that this cable is to remind them to stay connected to Jesus.
  - The cable, representing our ability to connect with Jesus, is there all the time. But a cable is useless without the object that needs the power at one end, and a plug and power source at the other end.
  - As you hold your section of cable, pray silently and ask the Holy Spirit to show you one way that you can be more closely connected to Jesus this week.
  - Encourage them to keep their piece of cable in their spiritual journey box-file.

## Closing Prayer



## Handout: Word Search: Staying Connected - A



Jesus describes our relationship with him as branches of a grape vine. His character can only flow into our lives when we're connected to him.

In John 15:1-17, Jesus reveals four connection points—points where we remain connected to him so that his character can continually flow into us.

Why do we need to be connected to Jesus?

What are some of the differences, that being connected to Jesus might make to our lives? (verse 8) Write down all your ideas:





## Handout: Word Search: Staying Connected - B



Jesus describes our relationship with him as branches of a grape vine. His character can only flow into our lives when we're connected to him.

In John 15:1-17, Jesus reveals four connection points—points where we remain connected to him so that his character can continually flow into us.

One way in which we stay connected to the mind of Jesus is through studying the Bible.

Why do you think studying the Bible, and especially the life and teachings of Jesus, is so important for a healthy spiritual life?

Look at the times in John 15:1-17 where Jesus uses the term “words” or “commands”. What do you think he’s trying to tell the disciples by using these words? Write your ideas below:





# Handout: Word Search: Staying Connected - C



Jesus describes our relationship with him as branches of a grape vine. His character can only flow into our lives when we're connected to him.

In John 15:1-17, Jesus reveals four connection points—points where we remain connected to him so that his character can continually flow into us.

We stay connected to the heart of Jesus when we keep talking and listening to him.

What three terms does Jesus repeatedly use to describe our closeness to God in the following verses of John 15?

**9-10**

**11**

**14-15**

Why do you think he chose these different terms to describe our closeness to God?

Can you think of any other ways of describing this relationship that Jesus might have used if he was talking today?





## Handout: Word Search: Staying Connected - D



Jesus describes our relationship with him as branches of a grape vine. His character can only flow into our lives when we're connected to him.

In John 15:1-17, Jesus reveals four connection points—points where we remain connected to him so that his character can continually flow into us.

We stay connected to the will of Jesus when we give up what we want to do - so that we can do what he wants us to do.

How many times is the word “if” used in John 15:1-17?

What do you think Jesus meant by using the word in this way?

Why is it so hard to let go of the things we want to do?

List some of the dangers of holding on to our own desires:

Why might we struggle with the idea of giving up our cherished activities so that we can do what Jesus wants us to do?

List some of the gifts that will come naturally to us when we do the things that Jesus wants us to do:





## Handout: Word Search: Staying Connected - E



Jesus describes our relationship with him as branches of a grape vine. His character can only flow into our lives when we're connected to him.

In John 15:1-17, Jesus reveals four connection points—points where we remain connected to him so that his character can continually flow into us.

We stay connected with Jesus when we help him by loving and serving others.

What does Jesus say we must be willing to do when we serve others? (verses 12-13)

How convenient or easy do you think such service is in the way we live our lives today?





# Handout: Word Search: Combined Staying Connected



Jesus describes our relationship with him as branches of a grape vine. His character can only flow into our lives when we're connected to him.

In John 15:1-17, Jesus reveals four connection points—points where we remain connected to him so that his character can continually flow into us.

Why do we need to be connected to Jesus?

What are some of the differences, that being connected to Jesus might make to our lives? (verse 8) Write down all your ideas:

We stay connected to the mind of Jesus through studying the Bible.

Why do you think studying the Bible, and especially the life and teachings of Jesus, is so important for a healthy spiritual life?

Look at the times in John 15:1-17 where Jesus uses the term “words” or “commands”. What do you think he's trying to tell the disciples by using these words? Write your ideas below.

We stay connected to the heart of Jesus when we keep talking and listening to him.

What three terms does Jesus repeatedly use to describe our closeness to God in the following verses: 9-10, 11, 14-15

Why do you think he chose these different terms to describe our closeness to God?

Can you think of any other ways of describing this relationship, that Jesus might have used if he was talking today?

We stay connected to the will of Jesus when we give up what we want to do - so that we can do what he wants us to do.

How many times is the word “if” used in John 15:1-17?

What do you think Jesus meant by using the word in this way?

Why is it so hard to let go of the things we want to do?

List some of the dangers of holding on to our own desires:

Why might we struggle with the idea of giving up our cherished activities so that we can do what Jesus wants us to do?

List some of the gifts that will come naturally to us when we do the things that Jesus wants us to do:

We stay connected with Jesus when we help him by loving and serving others.

What does Jesus say we must be willing to do when we serve others? (verses 12-13)

How convenient or easy do you think such service is in the way we live our lives today?



LESSON 3 -

### *FAMILY Discussion CARD*

When did you feel most closely connected to God? How did you feel and what happened?

What object or image helps you best, to understand the importance of staying connected with Jesus?

What difference do you think it would make to the world, if everyone stayed closely connected to Jesus?

What one thing would you like to do to improve your connection with Jesus?

LESSON 3 -

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## Handout: Jesus and Me Journal Lesson 3

# Power Cut



*Imagine that you have to live your life without any electricity for a month:*

How would your life be different?

*After taking the time to think about the effect of living without electricity for a month, imagine what it would be like to live without the power of God for a month?*

How would your life be different?

What would you miss the most?

What would you miss the most?

*What insights into your spiritual life has this exercise given you?*





## Handout: Jesus and Me Journal Lesson 3 Bible Study



This week, spend some time each day looking at one or two of these questions based on John 15:1-17.

According to this Bible passage, what is the purpose of the vine and what does this mean for you?

How many times is the word “remain” used? To those of us who want to be his disciples what is Jesus trying to teach here?

It is possible to know the words of Jesus but still not be connected to him. How is this possible, and how would you help someone in this situation?

Verse 8 says: ‘when we bear fruit, the Father is glorified.’ What does this mean?



Based on this passage, what would be your own definition of a disciple of Jesus?





## Handout: Jesus and Me Journal Lesson 3 Evaluating my Connection to Jesus



To help us strengthen our connection with Jesus in the future, and bear good fruit, it can be helpful to, every so often, evaluate our life with God. As always, we will ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in this process, because without him, we will not be able to see our spiritual condition clearly.

Take time to pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as you think about your answers to the following questions:

*WHAT AM I ALREADY DOING THAT KEEPS ME CONNECTED TO THE POWER OF JESUS?*

*WHAT ELSE COULD I DO THAT WOULD IMPROVE MY POWER CONNECTION TO JESUS?*

*DO I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT SOMETHING I HAVE DISCOVERED?*

*WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IN THE FUTURE TO STRENGTHEN MY CONNECTION TO JESUS?*





# Handout: Jesus and Me Journal Lesson 3

## Connection Experiment



As I have thought about my connection with Jesus I have felt inspired to do something different this week to increase my connection with him.

*I am choosing to:*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of the week, reflect on your connection experiment and write something about the difference your choice has made to the way Jesus is being reflected in your life.

