



## THE TRUE VINE; John 15:1-8

The disciples and followers of Jesus were sitting outside one day remembering some of the times they had been listening to the lessons of Jesus. On one of the days, it was really hot, but they were sitting beside a lake and the lake helped to cool them down. Beside the lake, there was a vineyard. There were many workers in the vineyard tending to the grapes. Some of the vines were being tied up to posts. Some of the branches on the vines were cut off and thrown away.

Susanna said, “Do you remember what Jesus told us, Andrew? If the workers in the vineyard cut off one of the branches it would die. In order for the branch to live, it had to be connected to the vine.”

“I do remember”, answered Andrew. “Jesus told us about how the vine gets its food and water from the earth. The vine then sends the food and water up to all the branches. The branches and even the leaves soak up the warm sunshine. All of the food and water and sunshine help the vine to produce big juicy grapes.”

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“The branches that are cut off the vine and thrown away dry up and are useless. No grapes will grow on them,” Susanna reminded Andrew. “I think Jesus told us about the vines for a reason. I think he wanted us to know that when we live in God’s way...when we are kind and fair to other people, and when we try to take care of God’s earth...then we are like the healthy branches.”

“Oh”, Andrew said, “I understand. If you and I are like the branches, and God is like the vine, we are helping God to produce the kind of “fruit” he wants us to grow. We need God, and God needs us!”

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We certainly do need God. And isn’t it nice to know that God needs us. What kind of “fruit” do you think God wants us to grow? In our story today, Susanna reminds Andrew that God wants us to be kind and to treat others fairly. What else can you think of?