

# I Dare You

## Module: Connected

### Lesson 1: Connected to Jesus

#### Objectives:

Students will

- learn that Jesus is our life source
- consider that bearing fruit is a natural outgrowth of being a disciple
- discover that you can only bear fruit by being connected to Jesus

#### Materials Needed

- ☐ Connect the dot handout<sup>1</sup>
- ☐ Pictures of a phone, laptop and ipod (or anything that needs to be charged)
- ☐ Clip from Matrix (where Morpheus explains that we are a battery)<sup>2</sup>
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens, Markers, Pencil Crayons, Crayons

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1. Website may be down, so included as a handout (<http://www.printactivities.com/ConnectTheDots/Fall-Tree-Dot2Dot.html>)

2. Youtube link to the video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IojqOMWTgv8>)

## **Minds On**

Have students complete the “connect the dots” picture. After they finish, talk about the picture that they’ve created. Ask them to look at the picture and make observations about the picture.

## **Action**

Have students read John 15:1-8

Say something like: What does this passage have to do with the tree (handout)?

(You want the students to discuss some of the characters in the story and the fact that it is only by being connected to the tree/vine, that the branches can produce any fruit.)

Have the group break off into small groups or even on their own. Have them take the picture of the tree and make connections between the picture of the tree and the passage they’ve read. Have them mark up the picture with people, ideas and things from the story that will fit into the picture. (For instance, since Jesus is the vine in the story, he can be the root or trunk of the tree.)

Have them come back and share their drawings and how they have incorporated the story of the vine and branches into the picture.

Here are some questions you may want the students to consider:

- Why do we need to be connected to Jesus? (He is our life source)
- There are two types of people referred to in this passage. Who are they? (Those who bear fruit and those who don’t)
- According to the passage, what happens to each of these people? (God prunes those who bear fruit and throws out and burns those that don’t) What is pruning?
- What’s the difference between the vine and branches? (Vine gives life, branches receive life.)
- Can anyone or anything else but Jesus be a vine?
- How do we bear fruit? (By being connected to Jesus)
- What does being connected to Jesus mean?

Show the clip from the Matrix or have pictures of things that need charging. Just as a cell phone, a laptop or an ipod need to be charged daily, we cannot function properly unless we are connected to Jesus. Discuss what happens to our lives when we don't stay connected to the "power source?"

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Have students revisit the opening activity and consider "What does the-connect-the dot drawing have to do with the passage we read today?" (We need to be connected to Jesus. Just as a branch does not have life of its own and only draws energy from the tree, we also need to be connected to Jesus in order to produce fruit.)

Have group brainstorm different ways they can stay connected to Jesus. What did Jesus do to stay connected to God?

- Matthew 14:23 - After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,
- Mark 1:35 - Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.
- Luke 4:42 - at daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.
- Luke 5:16 - But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Stress the importance of having Quiet Times with God and that even Jesus set aside time to spend with God.

For homework, ask students to write down number of times they spend with God during the week (besides meal times). Encourage them to spend at least one more time than they are spending now during the week. Have them share their experience next week.

Encourage youth to check out some devotional materials for guidance

- Morning and Evening by Charles Spurgeon
- My Utmost for His Highest
- Our Daily Bread

- Youth For Christ<sup>3</sup>
- Josh McDowell<sup>4</sup>
- Free Daily Devotions<sup>5</sup>
- You can have devotions emailed to you<sup>6</sup>

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3. <http://www.yfc.org/columns/devopage.php>

4. [http://www.josh.org/site/c.ddKDIMNtEqG/b.4197009/k.87E2/Todays\\_Youth\\_Devotional/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp](http://www.josh.org/site/c.ddKDIMNtEqG/b.4197009/k.87E2/Todays_Youth_Devotional/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp)

5. <http://www.newwineskin.com/devotionals.php>

6. [http://www.prayerforyouth.com/Youth\\_Devotions.html](http://www.prayerforyouth.com/Youth_Devotions.html)