

Sunday Club – 2nd May 2021

The following is one way of delivering this session with children. This week we explore remaining in the right place to grow.

Opening activity: What do we need to grow?

You will need: a large sheet of paper, a pen.

Explain that you are going to discuss together what plants and human beings need to grow healthily.

As your child(ren) come up with ideas (plants: sun, rain, good soil; humans: food, water, shelter, sleep, etc.) – list them on the paper.

Explore together how being connected to one another and to Jesus helps humans to grow and thrive.

Opening prayer:

Jesus, you are the vine, (Stand up straight and tall)

and we are the branches. (Hold arms out wide)

Thank you that we are connected

to you and to each other, (Hold hands with someone)

rooted and grounded in love.

Amen.

Open the Bible at John 15.1-8

Using this more child friendly version, teach your child(ren) a mime for each paragraph of the reading.

Paragraph 1: curl up in a ball and gradually stretch up tall, as though growing into a strong vine.

Paragraph 2: pretend to be a gardener walking around the garden, looking at the plants and cutting off branches here and there.

Paragraph 3: stand in a circle, with arms stretched out. As you read, slowly move closer together.

Let us imagine that God is a gardener, and in God's garden there is a plant: a vine. The vine is rooted in the soil, and the soil is rich and nutritious, full of God's goodness. ✱ The gardener pours all his love into it, so the vine has plenty of water and food, and everything else it needs to grow well.



There are many branches on the vine. Some have fruit, some do not. God cuts off all the branches that are dry and weak, and have no fruit. Then he looks at the branches that are fruitful and cuts those branches back, so that they will bear even more fruit. ✱

Jesus is like a vine. We are the branches. If the branches stay firmly attached to the root of the plant, they can draw on the goodness in the soil and produce sweet, juicy grapes. If we abide in Jesus and stay as close to him as the branches of the vine, we will grow well. ✱ Jesus will give us all the nourishment we need and we will produce wonderful fruit, like love, kindness and helpfulness. Jesus says that if we abide in him, we can ask for whatever we want, and it will be done for us.

John 15.1-8

✱ See Share the Word.

Stop and share

Ask the children if they know what a vine is. Remind them that it is a plant that produces grapes. Use the illustration to help explain the pruning image: cutting back to create more. Explain that 'abide' means to stay or remain.

Talk Together:

- What does it feel like if you've planted something and are waiting for it to grow?
- Why do you think the passage says we should be like plants?
- Can you think of ways you can stay connected to Jesus when you are at: school, home, after school clubs or church?

Craft Activity – Jesus is the Vine Craft

You will need: paper/white card for each child, green felt tip, purple paper, pens or paint and glue.

Write the word Jesus in curly font to the upper left of the card/paper using green felt tip (see image). Go on a walk and collect some ivy leaves and glue these in place. Then cut out circles of purple paper to create the grapes and glue these on or paint/colour these on.



Praise Song:

You are the vine, we are the branches - Words & Music: Danny Daniels & Randy Rigby

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=301PlhiRNx8>

Sing/hum and sway along!

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, you are the vine, (Stand up straight and tall)
and we are the branches. (Hold arms out wide)
Help us this week to be connected, (Hold hands)
by your love for us, and our love for each another.

Amen.

Other ideas for family worship:

An alternative is provided by Hull minster (John 15.1-8)

<https://hullminster.org/family-resources>

Kid's Church (taking a break) You could look at a previous episode you may have missed.

This is great fun and very interactive.

Beforehand, you can read the details which shows you the resources that will be required.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqok2LkCLGZpavyftfcRqA>

Please note that the Rochester Diocese's Ministry at Home has now ceased.