



Introduction

Jesus used some very simple stories and examples to teach his disciples how they can live a good life. Our example for today is all about a grapevine.

The bible passage is from John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit. But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of what I have said to you.

⁴ Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. ⁵ I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.

(Contemporary English Version)

Jesus wanted to teach his disciples (and us) about the importance of staying connected to him. He used an example of a vine, which his disciples would understand. A vine is a plant with a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches should have grapes on them.

If you have ever seen a branch that has been broken off a tree or a vine, you'll know that it soon withers up and dies. It can never have any fruit on it again and isn't any good for anything -- except firewood.

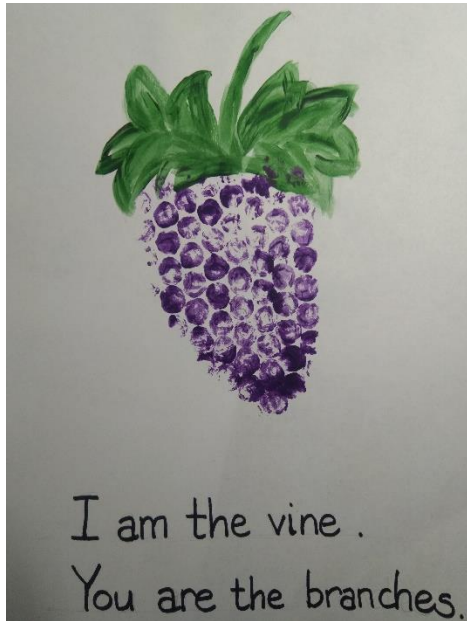
Jesus said, " I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me." Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit like

being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, he wants us to love others as he has loved us.

Activities:

1. Grapes picture

You will need: paper, bubble wrap, scissors, paints, paint brush



Cut a long triangle shape out of the bubble wrap that looks like a bunch of grapes. Paint the 'bubbles' with purple paint (made by mixing red and blue) and print the shape on your paper. With green paint add some leaves and a stalk. Write out one of the sentences from our bible reading as part of the picture.

Talk about: Jesus used the picture of a vine, branches and grapes to talk about how he wanted his friends to live. Do you have any suggestions for other examples that we might use to explain how to produce good fruit?

2. Vine picture

You will need: A3 paper (or bigger), paints, paint brush (or other means of creating a picture)

Draw or paint a picture of a vine (Jesus), the branches of a vine (us) and the fruit or grapes growing on the vine (good things that we do).

Talk about: how we might stay connected with Jesus, if we are the branches of the vine, so that we continue to produce good fruit. Prayer, meeting with others who are good, reading bible stories, are all ways to stay connected with Jesus.



3. Grape kebab

You will need: a skewer (adult supervision needed for young children), grapes.

Wash the grapes and separate them from the stalks if they are attached together as a bunch. Put the fruit onto a skewer to make a colourful kebab. EAT!

Talk about: The fruit that grows from a very basic plant is sweet and yummy. When we are close to Jesus (our vine) we can grow good fruit too. Talk about each of these types of fruit: love, peace, kindness, happiness, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control.



4. Make play-doh

You will need: 1 cup (250ml) plain flour, ½ cup salt, ½ cup warm water, 1 tblsp vegetable oil.

Mix flour and salt, add the water and oil and mix well to form a dough. If you have any cream of tartar add 1 teaspoon to the mix and this will help it last a bit longer. You can use drops of food colouring to make your dough different colours.

Make your dough into different shapes. If you want to keep what you have made, leave it out and it will air-dry in a few days.

If you want to use the dough again, store it in a plastic bag or wrap in cling-film. It will last longer if stored in the fridge.

Talk about: A vine always produces the same kind of fruit – a grape. However, we can produce lots of different fruits – any kind of good thing that happens. How could you make a model of your fruit?



Song: This little light of mine

In the video Hazel is using a light to illustrate another way of explaining why we need to keep connected to Jesus. We will also sing a song that links in with this - This little light of mine. Here's a link to a version that you can sing along to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkblZtqhyQ>

Prayer

Prayer is one way that we can keep connected with Jesus. One way of doing this is at the end of each day, to think of something that you're thankful for, something you're sorry for and something that you'd like to ask God for. The first letters of thank you, sorry and please (tsp), give an abbreviation for teaspoon and we call these prayers teaspoon prayers. Here's an example:

Dear Father,

Thank you for my family who look after me.

Sorry for the times when I have upset them.

Please help me to remember that I need to stay connected to Jesus if I am going to produce the kind of fruit you'd like me to.

Amen

Messy Grace:

This is a prayer that we say at Messy Church to ask God to always be with us, as we try to keep connected to Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands)

Be with us all (raise arms)

Amen (drop hands)

Next date: Friday 12th February 2021

www.facebook.com/MessyChurchWestWickham/