

I am the vine. You are the branches. If anyone remains joined to me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.

—John 15:5 NIV

Materials Needed

Bible, glove and a pen.

Message

Begin by sharing about your favorite fruit bearing tree and why it is your favorite. Include a brief description of the root, trunk, branch, leaf, fruit and sap system.

- What are some of your favorite trees?

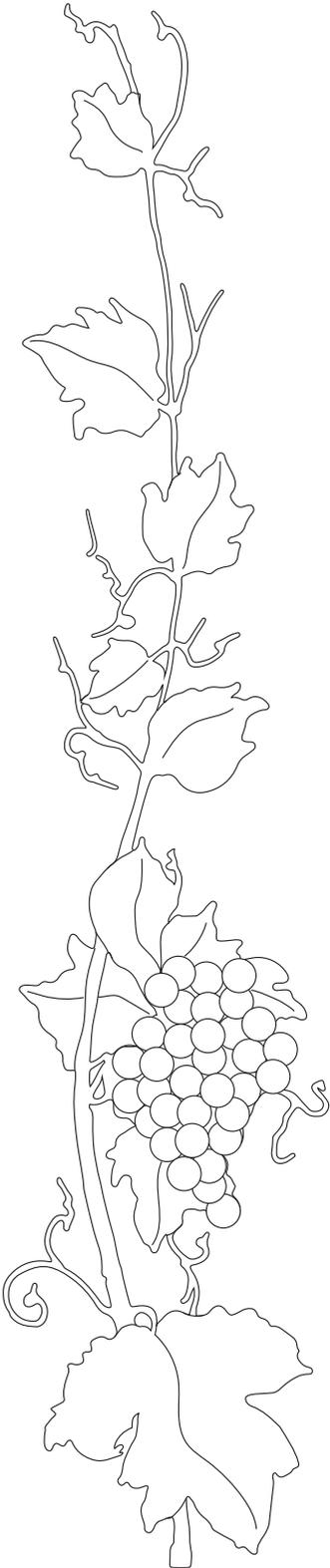
In today's Bible verse we hear about vines and branches. If you have never seen a vine, it is similar to a tree because of how it works. There are roots, branches, leaves, fruit and it has sap running through it. Unlike trees, vines grow out and long; trees grow up and tall. Jesus talked about vines and branches to His disciples the night before He would die on the cross. Jesus is talking about vines and branches because He wants us to understand the importance of being connected to Him. Thankfully Jesus is the One who keeps us all connected; we don't have to do it ourselves. We can't do it ourselves! Let's read the Bible verse for today. (John 15:5)

Now read John 15:6-8

- Who is the Vine? (Jesus)
- Who are the branches? (Us)
- Do you think Jesus leaves anyone out when He talks about branches?
- What does Jesus say will happen if you remain connected? (Bear a lot of fruit)
- What does it mean to say, *bear a lot of fruit*?
- I'm sure you can think of a gift or talent Jesus has given to you, but what about people with disabilities? Can people with disabilities bear *fruit*?

Object lesson:

- Ask for a volunteer. Give the glove to the volunteer and tell them not to put it on. They should just hold it with 2 fingers.
- Tell the volunteer to pick up the Bible with the glove. This will be impossible.
- Lay the glove on the table and tell the volunteer to have the glove give the peace sign. Obviously, this too is impossible.
- Put a pen in the glove and tell the volunteer to have it write hello on a piece of paper. Again, this is impossible.
- Say, "This glove is useless without a hand inside it."



- Put the glove on the volunteer's hand and demonstrate the ease of picking up a Bible, giving the peace sign, and writing on paper now that the hand is inside the glove.
- Say, "We are also useless without Jesus and His connection to us."

In John 15, Jesus calls Himself the Vine and He calls us the branches.

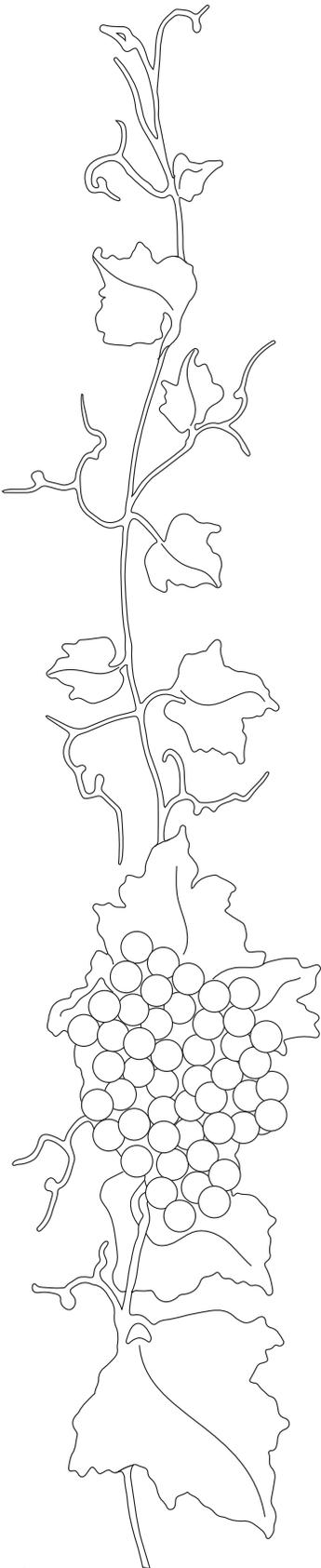
- What happens to a branch when it breaks off a tree? (It dies.) So it is with us if we disconnect from Jesus.

There is good news in this passage! Because of Jesus and the faith we have been given, we can bear fruit.

- Loving others is an example of bearing good fruit. What are some other examples of bearing good fruit?
- Reading the Bible is one way to receive the *Christ Connection*. What are some other ways to receive the *Christ Connection*?
- Think about people who may not be able to read. How can you help them receive the *Christ Connection* through the Bible?

God our Father is amazing! He loves us so much He would rather sacrifice His only Son than live in heaven without us. Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. He died for you, and He died for me, and He died for all people of all abilities. We all sin and we all are forgiven because of Jesus. We will all live in heaven because of Him, too. But while we are here on earth, God blesses each of us, whether we do or do not have disabilities, with gifts to use as we serve Him in His kingdom.

We can do nothing without Jesus, the Vine. Jesus gives us His Word, the Bible. Jesus gives us baptism and communion. Jesus gives us forgiveness. Jesus, the Vine, connects to us, the branches, through His unfailing love. It doesn't matter who we are or where we come from... Jesus loves us all and He loves us all the same. We are all His branches.



Order of Service

Invocation:

Leader: We begin in the name of the Father, who created us,

Students: in the name of the Son, who is the Vine,

Leader: and in the name of the Holy Spirit who keeps our faith flowing.

All: Amen!

Opening prayer:

Leader: Jesus, our Savior and Vine, help us listen to Your Word and open our hearts to receive Your gifts. Thank You for letting Your love and forgiveness flow through us. We praise Your name and are grateful for Your presence.

Students: AMEN.

Opening Song: *Sing Hosanna (Give Me Oil in My Lamp)*

1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Keep me burning 'til the break of day
 2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me
praising...
 3. Give me peace in my heart, keep me
resting...
 4. Give me love in my heart, keep me
serving...
- Chorus: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings

Group Reading: John 15:5-8 NIV

Leader: I am the Vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to Me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit.

Girls: You can't do anything without Me.

Leader: If you don't remain joined to Me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and dries up.

Boys: Branches like those are picked up.

Girls: They are thrown into the fire and burned.

Leader: If you remain joined to Me and My words remain in you, ask for anything you wish.

Boys: And it will be done for you.

Leader: When you bear a lot of fruit, it brings glory to My Father.

All: It shows that you are My disciples.

Message: *The Christ Connection*

Offering & Prayers

Blessing

Closing Song Suggestion

"I Am the Vine" Maranatha Kids

