

***Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way***



April 29, 2018

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31 (27)
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



The Vine and the Branches

Object: A picture of a grapevine and a tree branch that is dead.

Have you ever noticed that when Jesus was teaching, he often told stories to help his followers understand what he wanted them to learn? Well, he did, and our Bible lesson today is one of those stories. If Jesus had given his stories a title, he might have called this story "The Vine and the Branches." This story was about grapevines. He chose the grapevine for this story because in the land where Jesus lived, there were many grapevines and he knew that his followers would know a lot about grapevines.

I don't know if you have ever seen a grapevine, but there are two parts to the grapevine. There is the vine—and there are the branches growing out of the vine. The grapes grow on the branches. The only way that a branch can have fruit on it is for it to remain connected.

I found this branch lying on the ground. Look at it! It has no leaves and no sign of life left in it. If it came from a fruit tree, it will never have any fruit on it. That is what Jesus wanted his followers to understand as he told his story about the grapevine. He wanted them to understand how important it was for them to stay connected to him. He told them, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will have much fruit, but apart from me, you can do nothing."

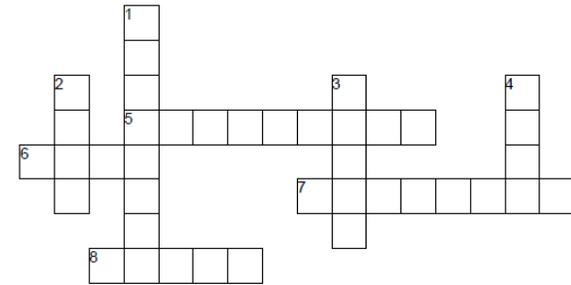
Jesus wants you and me to produce fruit in our life. He wants us to be kind, gentle, generous, and loving. Can we do that on our own? No way. Just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us. If we keep our life connected to Jesus, we will grow. Our life will produce beautiful leaves and delicious fruit.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to help us to be faithful followers of Jesus and produce much fruit in our life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. Alleluia. (John 15:5)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 5. Those who follow Jesus
- 6. The opposite of false
- 7. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 8. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten

DOWN

- 1. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 2. Burning flame
- 3. Praise or honor
- 4. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

GARDENER	FRUIT	FIRE	DISCIPLES
VINE	TRUE	GLORY	BRANCHES

VINE LINE: Give the child a sheet of white or light-colored card stock or heavy construction paper. Have them draw a long curvy line around their paper using a brown marker to represent a vine. Next, help the child to cut out small pieces of green construction paper in the shape of leaves and glue them at several places along the vine. Near the leaves, the child will use their fingertips dipped into purple finger paint to make clusters of grapes. When their picture is finished, they can write, "Jesus said, I am the true vine" at the bottom.



"I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES. IF A MAN REMAINS
IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE WILL
BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART
FROM ME YOU CAN DO
NOTHING." JOHN 15:5 (NIV)

