



Vine and Branches

AN ACTIVITY AND CHORUS PLAY
BASED ON JOHN 15:5,7-8

RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

Background for the Leader

This Gospel passage presents the image of unity or connectedness by proclaiming Jesus as the one true vine. God is the gardener, the one who looks after, who trims, who protects, who nurtures. All are connected to God by the vine, and through God, all are connected to one another.

The simple message is that all are connected to God, and through God, all are connected to one another.

ACTIVITY

- Display an image of a vine with many branches on it in front of the children.
- Invite a few children to approach the image and trace the different branches to show where they connect to the vine.
- Ask the children to count the number of branches in the displayed image. Identify that each branch is different in size and shape but is ultimately connected to the vine.
- Remind the children that Jesus is the vine and that all people are connected to him.
- Invite the children to create their own image of the vine and branches. Place the Children's Lectionary or another appropriate symbol in the middle of the room. Invite two or three children to create a vine to the Lectionary by touching it with one hand and stretching their other arm or a leg out.
- Invite a few more children to add to or "grow" the vine. Continue until all are connected and part of a vine.
- Ask the children to notice how the entire group is connected to one another and to the Lectionary.
- Conclude by pointing out that all are connected to the Lectionary and to one another, just as all people are connected to God, the vine, and one another, the branches.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Chorus Play

Chorus plays present scriptural stories in the form of a play with both individual characters and a chorus. The chorus aspect allows for whole-group participation. One of the aims of chorus plays is to provide not only a presentation of the story but also an informed interpretation of it. There are many excellent reference sources available today to assist interpretation, especially biblical commentaries.

People required: Leader, Jesus, Chorus. It might be helpful to have a second reader read the designated "Chorus" lines and then have the rest of the children echo that reader.

Leader: Jesus said,

Chorus: Jesus said,

Leader: So they will get even *more* fruit.

Chorus: MORE fruit

Jesus: I am the true vine.

Chorus: The true vine

Leader: Jesus said, "Stick with me!"

Jesus: Stick with me!

Chorus: Stick with me!

Jesus: And God

Chorus: God

Jesus: And I will stick with you.

Chorus: I will stick with you.

Jesus: Is the gardener

Chorus: The gardener

Jesus: I am the vine,

Chorus: The vine

Jesus: Who cuts away the branches

Chorus: The branches

Jesus: And you are the branches.

Chorus: The branches

Jesus: That have no fruit.

Chorus: No fruit.

Jesus: When you stick with me

Chorus: Stick with me

Leader: The gardener trims
the branches

Chorus: Trims the branches

Leader: God will be happy.

Jesus: God will be happy.

Chorus: God will be happy.

Leader: That have NO fruit

Chorus: NO fruit

Leader: The Word of God.

Chorus: The Word of God.