

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for Easter)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2016/03/09/15/13/grapes-1246531_960_720.jpg

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we hear that Jesus tell us that he is the vine, and we are the branches.

Opening prayer: Lord God, we ask you to keep close to you because in following Jesus we will bear much fruit. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (15:1-5,7-8).

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts away every branch of mine that does not produce fruit. But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit.

“You are already clean because of what I have said to you.

“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 do anything without me.

“Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.

“When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honoured.”

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the videos together

“I am the Vine” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btojLhvXzUc> (5.49 mins)

Vine and Branches <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDIS4otedvY> (1.50 mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why Jesus said he is the true vine ...

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit" ...

I wonder why Jesus asks us to stay joined to him ...

I wonder how God feels if we stay joined to him...

I wonder how I can become a fruitful disciple...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkGQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.

(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: that they can continue to be great leaders who will bear much fruit through their work.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for the children and families who are preparing for their Sacraments of Initiation that during this time they will draw nearer to God.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that our Church will stay connected to God in the same way Jesus describes the branches need to be connected to the vine to bear fruit.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and or are suffering at this time. May they find their resting place with Jesus.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: Loving God, may we stay connected to Jesus who is the true vine. Let all that we do be bear good fruit that our world needs. Amen.

Closing song: *Remain in Me, I Am the Vine* – Curtis Stephan & Steve Angrisano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQOgb7x9KHg> (4.16 mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**

Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).

- **Create your own Art**

After listening to this gospel, create your own artwork of this story using pencil, paint, crayons etc.

Imagine what God's garden would look like. Reflect on how beautiful the vine and fruit would look if it were well taken care of.

- **Family Connection**

Spend some time looking at a plant and its branches. Use this as a discussion point as a family to talk about why in today's gospel Jesus speaks about being the true vine and we are the branches.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fifth-sunday-of-easter-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>