

Top Tips on Family Worship at Home

Whilst our usual pattern of Sunday service and Junior Church is put on hold, we hope to resource households to continue to worship and pray together and be a place of Christ's light in our world during these uncertain days.

Here are some top tips to get started:

- 1) Find a time in the day that works for you.
- 2) Don't expect it to be silent - it will be messy! Go with the flow.
- 3) Encourage everyone to contribute, both adults and children.
- 4) Be flexible on timing and ready to adapt or shorten the session if your children get restless - there's no point in making this a battle!
- 5) Use the events of the past few days to explore where you've each met God or seen him at work.
- 6) Involve your children and young people with what the church is doing during this CV-19 crisis – suggestions can be found in the **Action** section.

Key for age groups:



Infants



Juniors



Seniors

Church session for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, 2 May 2021

Big Idea: Jesus is 'the true vine' and we are the branches. We need to abide in Jesus, if we are to bear fruit, as God wants us to.



Bible Story: [John15.1-8](#) (all ages)

Let us imagine that God is a gardener, and in God's garden there is a plant: a vine. The vine is rooted in the soil, and the soil is rich and nutritious, full of God's goodness. The gardener pours all his love into it, so the vine has plenty of water and food, and everything else it needs to grow well and produce lots of grapes.

There are many branches on the vine. Some have fruit, some do not. God cuts off all the branches that are dry and weak, and have no fruit. Then he looks at the branches that are fruitful and cuts those branches back, so that they will bear even more fruit.

Jesus is like a vine. We are the branches. If the branches stay firmly attached to the root of the plant, they can draw on the goodness in the soil and produce sweet, juicy grapes. If we abide in Jesus and stay as close to him as the branches of the vine, we will grow well. Jesus will give us all the nourishment we need and we will produce wonderful fruit, like love, kindness and helpfulness. Jesus says that if we abide in him, we can ask for whatever we want, and it will be done for us.

I wonder?

- Have you ever seen a vine growing?
- Why did Jesus use a vine as a picture of himself?
- What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus?
- What can we do to stay connected to Jesus?
- How can we stay connected when at school, at home, at after school clubs and at church?
- What sort of fruit does God want us to produce (see Galatians 5.22-23)?



• **Mime the story**



Read the story again and do a different mime for each paragraph.

Paragraph 1: mime being the vine. Curl up in a ball and then stretch up tall, as though growing into a strong vine.

Paragraph 2: pretend to be the gardener, looking at the vine and cutting off branches here and there.

Paragraph 3: everyone together should mime being the branches and the vine. Stand in a circle, with arms stretched out. Move slowly closer together.



Creative activity: corky grapes (all ages)

You will need: pencils, an A3 sheet of paper, corks (or carrots), purple paint in saucers, pens

- Draw a large ‘V’ shape on the paper.
- Create a bunch of grapes by dipping the cork in the purple paint and dabbing it onto the paper. Do this inside the ‘V’ to create the bunch shape.

- When you have finished, talk together about what kind of ‘fruit’ we can grow in our lives by staying close to God, e.g. love, joy, patience.
- Write those words around the bunch of grapes.

Creative activity: Explore the passage in the Bible



You will need: a Bible, pencils and paper

- Read John 15.1-8 in the Bible
- Talk about what you have explored, what it means for you and how it might influence your daily life
- Draw up a list of all the weekly activities you do and score them out of 5 for how worthwhile or fruitful you feel they are (5 = extremely worthwhile; 0 = pointless). Is there anything that you could sensibly stop doing? Or something that you could take up, e.g. volunteering?
- Write or draw the meaning of the passage to you on the paper
- Draw a watering can, and on it write or draw any particular challenge that the passage presents to you.



Pray together

Jesus, you are the vine
(Stand up straight and tall).
 and we are the branches.
(Hold arms out wide.)
 Thank you that we are connected
 to you and to each other,
(Hold hands with someone else.)
 rooted and grounded in love. **Amen.**



For the week:

Every time you pass some plants or trees this week, pray that God would help you to grow in your faith.