

Today in church we will be exploring the story of the Vine and the Branches:

## John 15:1-8

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine; my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that does not produce fruit. And he trims and cleans every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the words I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can produce fruit alone. It must remain in the vine. It is the same with you. You cannot produce fruit alone. You must remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I remain in him, then he produces much fruit. But without me he can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, then he is like a branch that is thrown away. That branch dies. People pick up dead branches, throw them into the fire, and burn them. <sup>7</sup> Remain in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you. <sup>8</sup> You should produce much fruit and show that you are my followers. This brings glory to my Father.



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Other scriptures we will be thinking about at church this week include 1 John 4:7-21 that tells us God is love. God loves you always, in the good and the bad times, no matter what. This is how we should love others. What does it mean to love?



### Discussion:

Questions to discuss as a family:

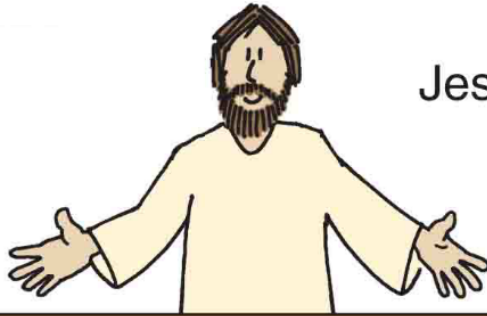
What do you think it means to "remain in God"?

What do you think "God fruit" looks like?

God wants us to be connected to God! Have you ever noticed that you have habits or phrases that you use because you have picked them up from the people around you? When we spend time with people, we can become more like them! When we spend time with God the same thing can happen.

The branch of an apple tree connected to the trunk will produce apples! When we are connected to God and filled with God's love that is the fruit we produce. We can bring a flavor of God and heaven to those we meet on the earth. The Holy Spirit in us helps us to produce good fruit.

What are your favorite ways to show and share love with others?



Jesus speaks about the vine  
and the gardener.  
What does He say?

Shade in the boxes listed below to find the answer.

A 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30

B 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28

C 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29

D 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28

E 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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"I am the \_\_\_\_\_,  
and My Father is the gardener."

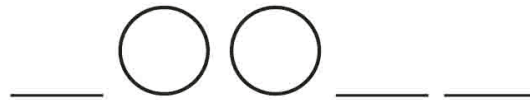
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**SECRET CODE**  
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What does Jesus say is the result  
of the word He has already spoken?

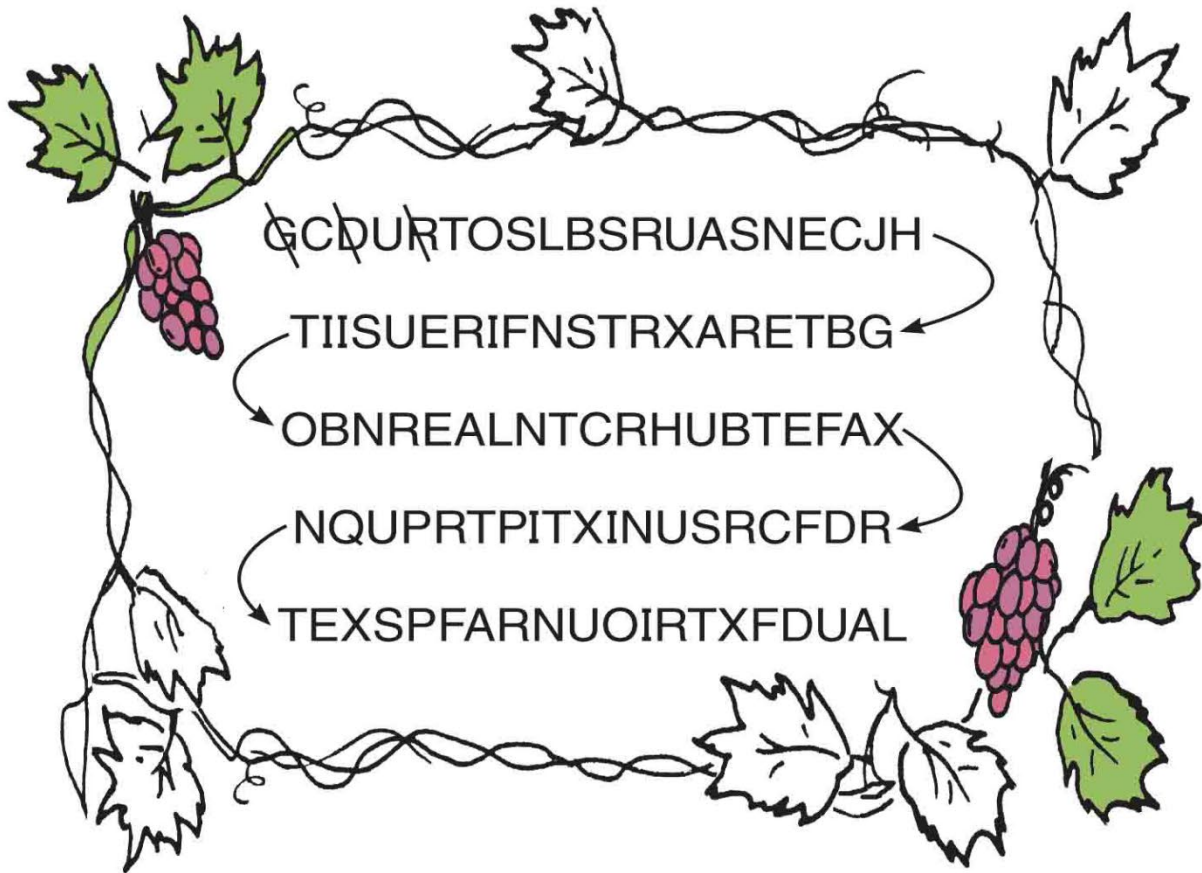
Write the name of each picture.  
Then transfer the letters in the boxes to the lines below.



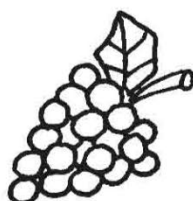
"You are already \_\_\_\_\_  
because of the \_\_\_\_\_  
I have spoken to you."

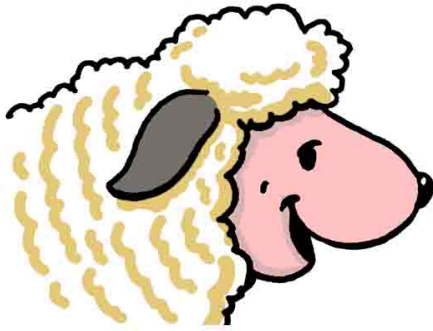
# What does the Father do as the gardener, according to Jesus?

Starting with the first letter, cross out every other letter. Write the remaining letters on the blank below to fill in the message.



“He C U \_\_\_\_\_ off every \_\_\_\_\_  
 in Me that \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_,  
 while every \_\_\_\_\_ that does \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_ so that it will  
 be even more \_\_\_\_\_.”





What does Jesus say  
will happen if His words  
remain in a person?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
R U B L F

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
I V N Z R M R M N V

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
Z M W N B D L I W H

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
I V N Z R M R M B L F

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
Z H P D S Z G V E V I

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
B L F D R H S Z M W

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
R G D R O O Y V

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
W L M V U L I B L F”

## Family Activities

Here are some activities you can do together as a family and discussion ideas to explore God's word together.

### Family Activity 1:

The passage today is all about staying connected to God. Can you stay connected to each other with these activities? Set up an obstacle course using furniture from around your home and see if you can complete it as a family all staying connected! Use a scarf or piece of fabric to join family members together at the ankle and complete a three-legged race.

### Family Activity 2:

Make a tree craft together by collecting some twigs or branches. You could use an empty jar, bottle, or flower pot to support your tree. Here are some ideas of items you could make and attach to the tree.

- Decorations with the names of friends, peers, or acquaintances to use as a reminder to pray for others.
- Decorations with the fruits of the Spirit on them as a reminder of how we can choose to live for God every day.

### Active Fruit:



Galatians 5: 22-23 teaches us about the fruit of the Spirit, the godly character and behavior that the Holy Spirit helps to grow in us. When we are connected with God and the Holy Spirit our behavior and character become more like God's. Spend some time waiting on God together, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to produce godly fruit in your own lives. Which of these fruits of the Spirit would you like to see more of in your life?

**Love \* Joy \* Peace \* Patience \* Kindness \* Goodness \* Faithfulness \* Gentleness \* Self-Control**

### A Prayer to Say Together:

Dear God,



Thank you for the picture of the vine and the branches which reminds us to stay connected to you.

Thank you that you love each one of us and want us to be part of your plans in the world.

Help us to be producers of good fruit in the world, sharing your love with others,  
so that they can know of your love too.

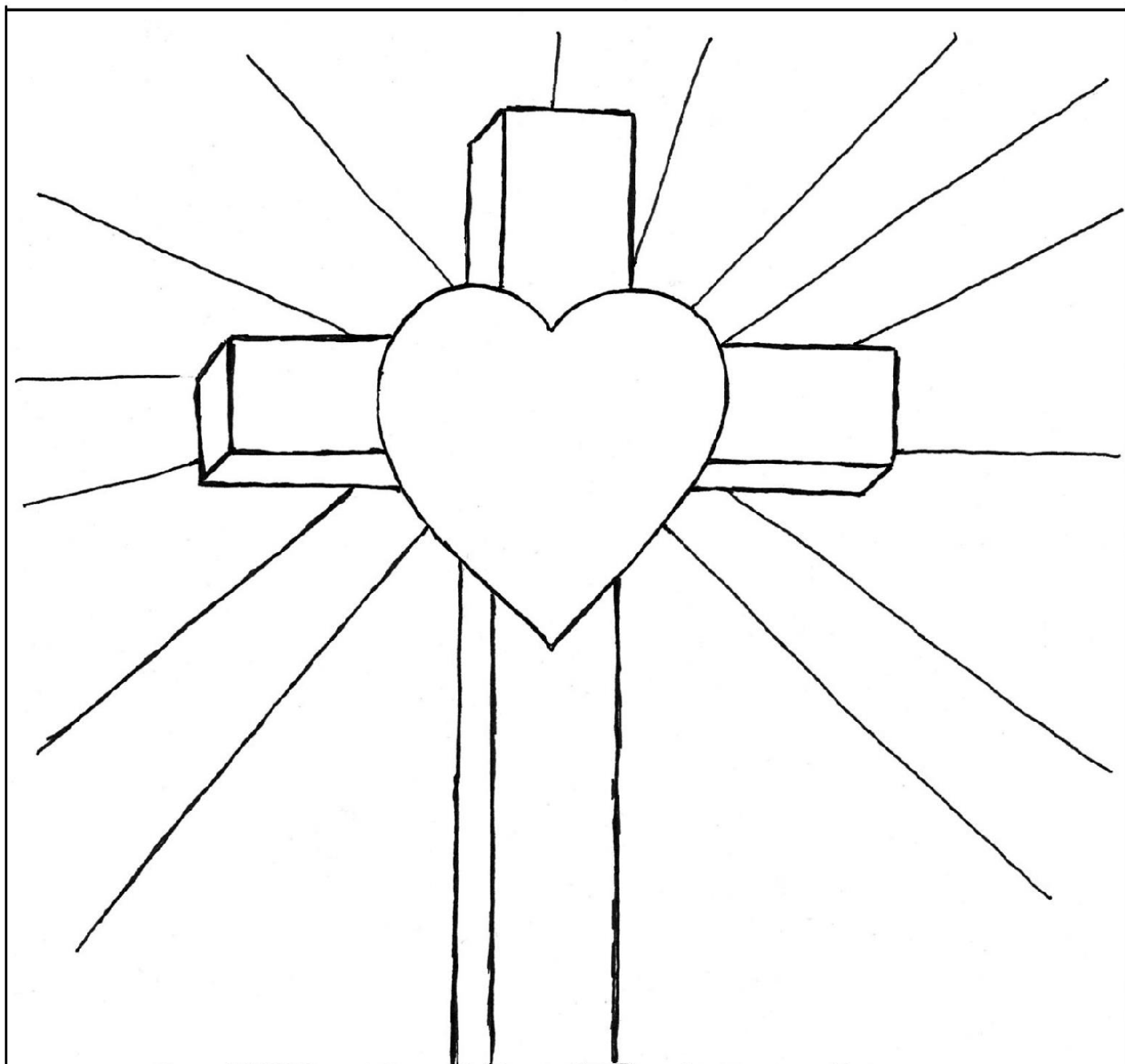
Amen.

### Some Ideas to keep connected with God this week:

**Build Connection Moments:** The more we demonstrate connection in our lives together, the more natural it becomes to when we find ourselves on our own. Look for moments this week to share with God – positive moments you can bring thanks and praise, negative moments when you can pray and ask for help and support.

**Ask Fruity Questions:** Why not try and ask each day about which fruits of the Spirit you were able to show and share with others.





WE LOVE HIM  
BECAUSE HE FIRST  
LOVED US

1 John 4:19

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## Answer Key:

**Jesus, the True Vine**

Jesus speaks about the vine and the gardener. What does He say?

Shade in the boxes listed below to find the answer.

A 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30  
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 E 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30

**TRUE VINE**

"I am the t r u e v i n e,  
 and My Father is the gardener."

What does Jesus say is the result of the word He has already spoken?

Write the name of each picture. Then transfer the letters in the boxes to the lines below.

**cat**  
**leaf**  
**hand**  
**sword**  
**chair**  
**head**

"You are already c l e a n  
 because of the w o r d  
 I have spoken to you."

What does Jesus say will happen if His words remain in a person?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

**"I f y o u  
 r e m a i n i n M e  
 a n d M y w o r d s  
 r e m a i n i n y o u  
 a s k w h a t e v e r  
 y o u w i s h , a n d  
 d o n e f o r y o u."**

What does the Father do as the gardener, according to Jesus?

Starting with the first letter, cross out every other letter. Write the remaining letters on the blanks below to fill in the message.

**"He c u t s off every  
 b e a r s n o f r u i t  
 w h i l e e v e r y b r a n c h  
 f r u i t H e p r u n e s s o t h a t i t w i l l  
 b e e v e n m o r e f r u i t f u l."**



## Sunday School @ 9:45am Sunday Mornings via Zoom

Children's Sunday School with Kim Ridenour meets at 9:45am Sunday mornings via Zoom. Join us as we continue our "Sermon on the Mount Series." Join us at <https://zoom.us/join> or by calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **865 7471 1577** and Passcode: **YouthSS**.

For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net) or the Church Office at 301.739.7244.



*"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.  
 Today's trouble is enough for today". (Matthew 6:34)*

## Sunday Worship @ 11am in-person or virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>



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 Hagerstown, MD 21740  
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