

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the Vine and Branches.

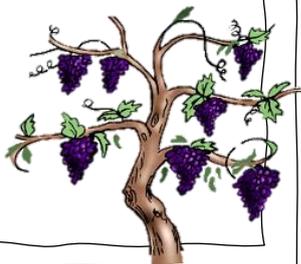
You can find it in your Bible in:

John 15 v 1–8

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we will be thinking about at church this week are:

Acts 8 v 26-40
Psalm 22 v 25-31
1 John 4 v 7-21



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 come to know you too.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What do you think it means to ‘remain in God’?

What do you think ‘God fruit’ looks and tastes like?

God wants us to be connected to Him! 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 His love that is the fruit we produce. We can bring a flavour of God and heaven to those we meet on the earth. The Holy Spirit in us helps us to produce good fruit.

A question for children to ask adults

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

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.





A verse to remember

1 John 4 v 19

We love because God first loved us.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Active Fruit

Galatians 5 v 22-23 teaches us about the Fruit of the Spirit, the godly character and behaviour that the Holy Spirit helps to grow in us. When we are connected with God and the Holy Spirit our behaviour 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 today?

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-Control



Family Activity 2

Make a tree: Collect some twigs or branches and make a tree craft together.

You could use an empty jar, bottle or plant pot to support your tree.

Here are some ideas of items you could make and attach to the tree.

- Decorations with the names of Christian friends on. Use them as a reminder to pray for others that they would keep connected to God.
- Decorations with the names of friends who haven't yet come to know God as their friend and saviour. Use them as a reminder to pray for them.
- Decorations with the fruits of the spirit on them as a reminder of how we can choose to live for God every day.

Keep connected this week...

Here are some ideas to keep connected with God this week.

Build connection moments: The more we demonstrate connection in our own lives the more natural it becomes for our children when they are on their own. Look out for moments which you can share with God – positive moments when 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.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Thank you to www.coloringpagesbymradron.blogspot.com for this colouring sheet.
You can find more colouring pages on their website.

