

MAY 3, 2015
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+ faith home

Jesus is the vine and we are his branches.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Christ, the vine
Monday	Matthew 3:4-10	Repentance and fruit
Tuesday	Matthew 7:15-20	A good tree bears good fruit
Wednesday	Jeremiah 17:5-8	A tree that always bears fruit
Thursday	Galatians 5:16-26	The fruit of the Spirit
Friday	Colossians 1:9-14	Producing the fruit of good works
Saturday	Psalms 1:1-3	The fruitful tree
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me." John 15:5 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to stay joined to you. Produce your good fruit in our lives today. Amen. (John 15:5)

Mealtime Prayer:

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; so thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you connected to him so that you produce his good fruit of love. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is your favorite fruit? Why?
- Jesus says that we show that we are his followers by producing fruit. What do you think Jesus means by "fruit?"
- Jesus tells us that if we are to bear fruit, we need to stay joined to him the way branches stay joined to a grapevine. How do we stay joined to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus tells us that he is God's true vine and we are his branches. We must stay joined to him to bear spiritual fruit. Gather green or brown pipe cleaners, green construction paper and colored dot stickers. Have each household member make their own vine, beginning with a longer section of pipe cleaner. Add branches, using smaller sections of pipe cleaner, and then leaves cut from green construction paper. Poke the ends of branches through the leaves and bend them to attach the leaves to the vine. Put dot stickers on the leaves to represent fruit. Each day this week, talk about the spiritual fruit you have seen displayed in one another's lives, and pray that God will use each of you as instruments of his love.

SERVICE

Next Sunday (May 10) is Mother's Day. Plan an act of service for the mother or mothers in your lives. Ask her how she would best like to be served and make arrangements for this.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place a large bunch of grapes and an empty bowl on the table so everyone can reach them. Explain that as the questions are read, each person will answer, remove a grape from the bunch, and place it in the bowl.

- Describe a time when you felt or knew that Jesus was helping you to do something.
- Describe a time when you helped someone who was hurting or needed some assistance.
- Describe a time when you thought about what God would like before acting on a situation.
- Describe a time when knowing a certain Bible verse or story helped you.
- Describe a time when God taught you something or helped you to grow as a person through something that was difficult or painful.

After everyone has had the opportunity to respond, discuss how these good things are the fruits that Jesus wants us to grow in our lives. They are sweet like the grapes. Enjoy the grapes with thanks to God!



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



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