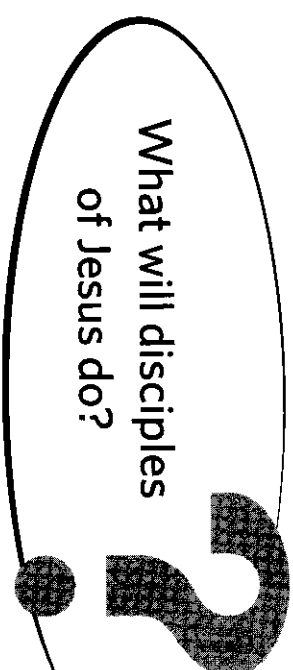
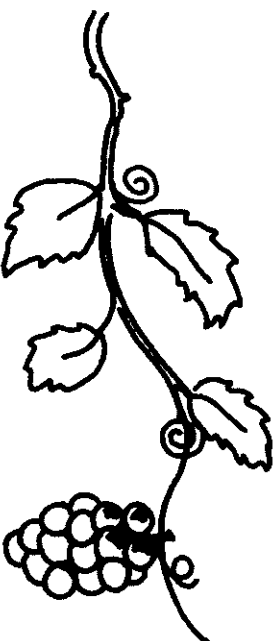


Choose a rhyming word to complete each sentence

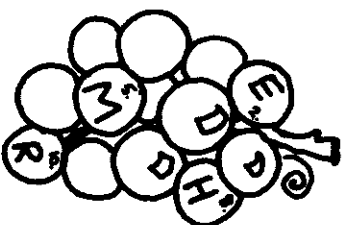
Jesus is the vine, growing strong and _____.
 We are the branches, that's me and you!
 God is the gardener who tends the _____.
 With his love and care the harvest is fine.
 Wood that is fruitless he cuts _____.
 Useless branches do not stay.
 With careful pruning each branch bears _____.
 The harvest grows bigger and better than before!

Word list: AWAY VINE TRUE MORE



What will disciples
of Jesus do?

Find the letters amongst the grapes!

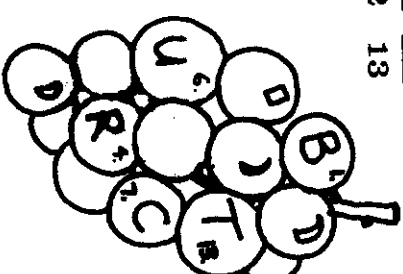
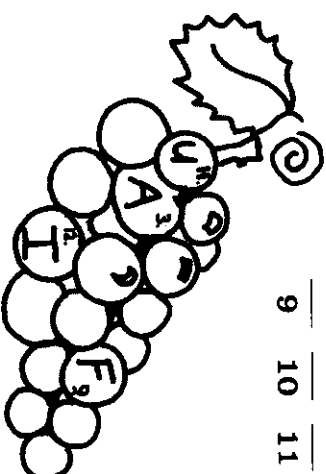


1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13

!

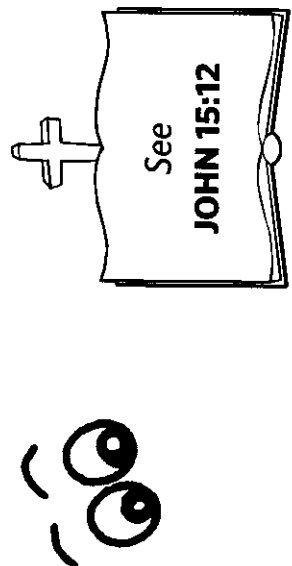


JOHN 15:8

THINK and LOOK ahead

Jesus is the true Vine

Next Sunday what does
Jesus command his disciples to do?



“
♥3 ♡1 ♡3 ♥2 ♡1 ♥4 ♥2
♡4 ♥4 ♡1 ♥7 ♥6 ♥2 ♡7 ♡4 ♥1 ♡6
♥6 ♡4 ♡3 ♥2 ♥3 ♡1 ♡3 ♥2 ♥5
”
♡5 ♡1 ♡2

ANSWER CHECK

♥	S	E	L	N	D	H	T
♡	O	U	V	A	Y	I	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

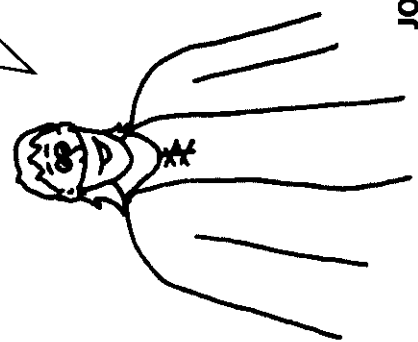
Find the words of Jesus using the grid below

4B 1D 2D 4C 4D 3C

1B 2A 1A 3C 1E 4B 3D 3C 2B 3D 2C

2D 3A 2E 1D 4C 4D 3C 2A 4B 1C

4C 4D 3C 3B 3E 3D 3C 2C 2A 3C 4A 1C 3C 2A



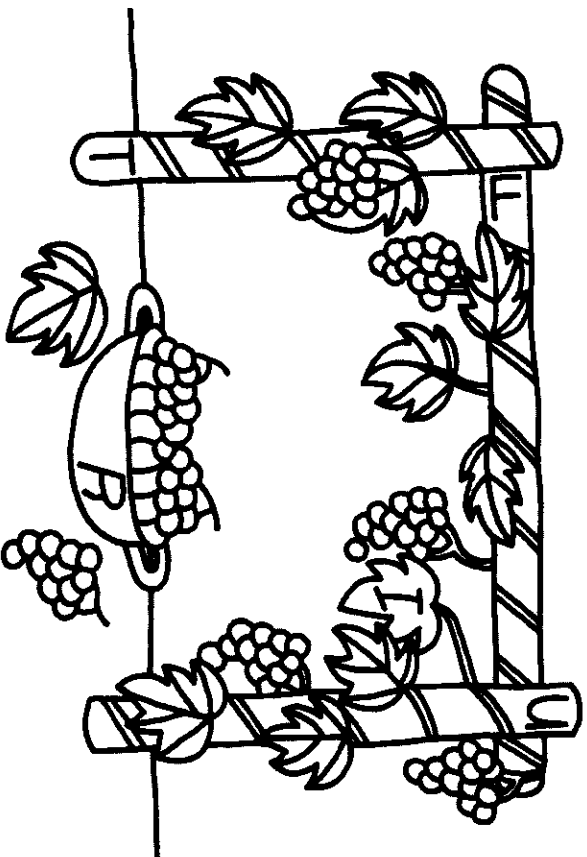
1	2	3	4
U	R	Y	S
T	A	V	I
S	D	E	T
A	M	N	H
V	F	I	Y

JOHN 15:1







Jesus is the vine, and
we are the branches!
What grows on the branches?

Find these letters hidden in the picture:

F - R - U - I - T



Which branch has grown the most bunches of fruit?
For each branch, circle the number of bunches.
Put a check mark by the branch with the highest number

<p>A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4 5</p> 	<p>B <input type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>D <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4 5</p> 	<p>E <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4 5</p>  <p>F <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4 5</p> 
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THINK and **LOOK** ahead

• STEP BY STEP •

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

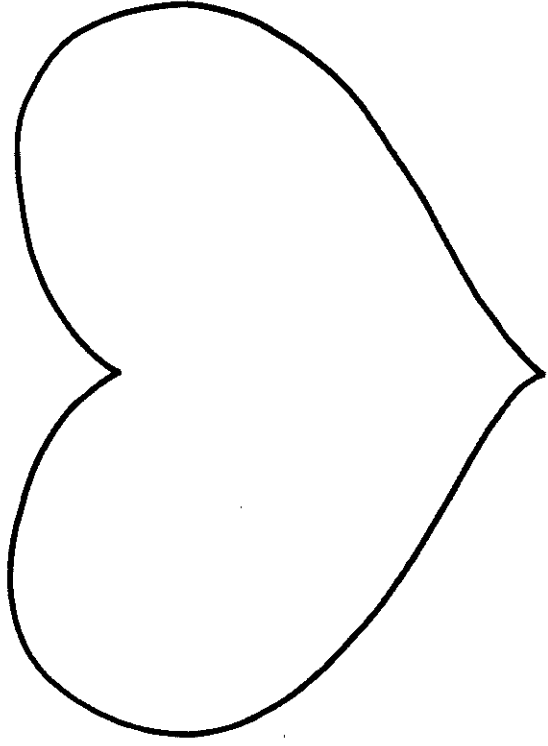
Jesus is the true vine

Next Sunday Jesus commands us
to love each other.

JOHN 15:1-8

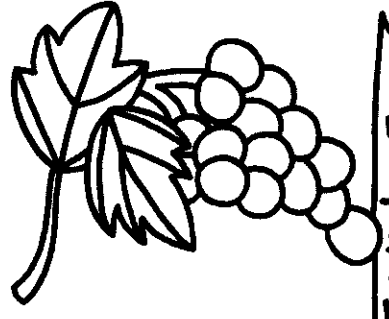
What did Jesus describe himself as?

Think of someone **YOU** love.
Draw their picture in the heart below



Trace the missing letters

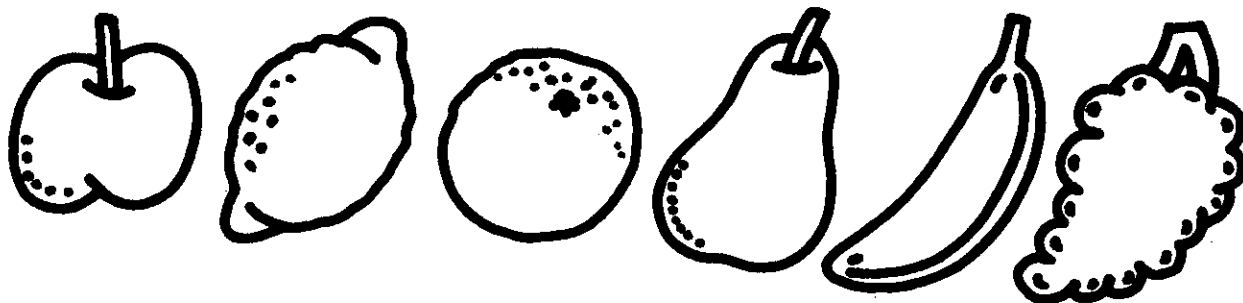
THE
TRUE
VINE



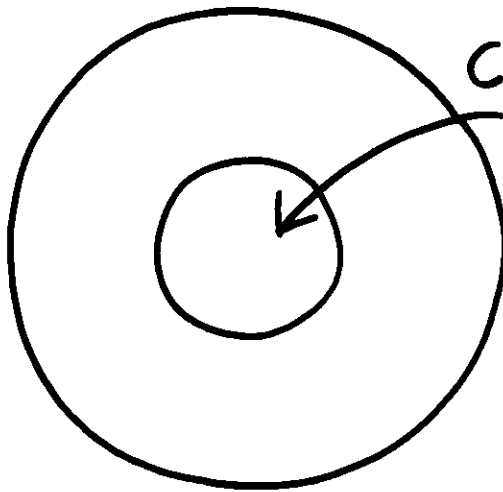
JOHN 15:1

WE ARE THE BRANCHES

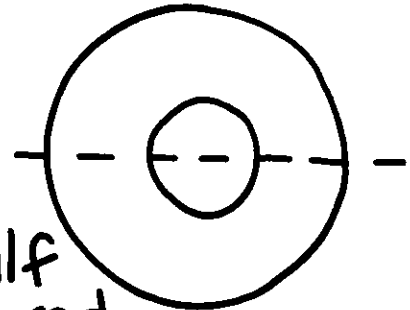
JESUS
IS
THE
VINE



• SHEEP PUPPETS. •

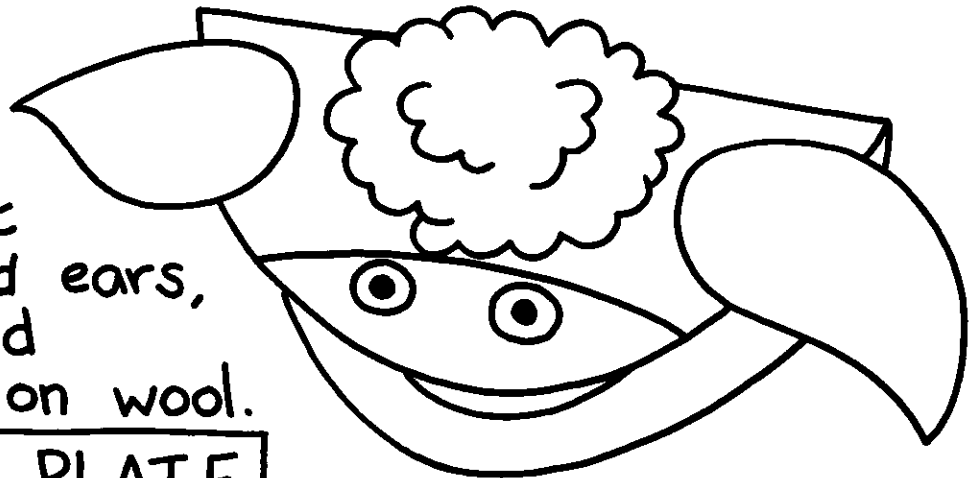


Colour the
middle of
the plate
red.



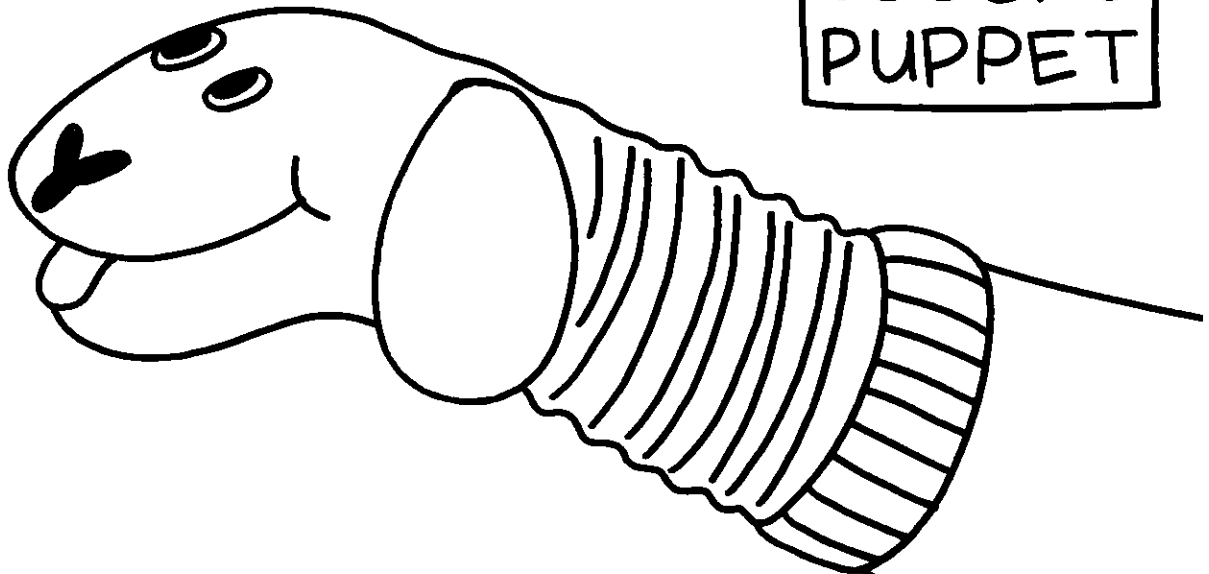
Fold in half
with the red
inside.

Add cut
out card ears,
eyes and
cotton wool.



PAPER PLATE
★ PUPPET ★

« SOCK »
PUPPET



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel with bunches of red and green grapes, and a small bowl with some dried sultanas and raisins arranged around it.

Introduction

God provides everything that is necessary for his creation to be fruitful and multiply. Just as the vines in a vineyard produce a rich harvest, so too can the Word of God take root in our lives and yield a rich harvest as we bear the fruits of his love in our daily thoughts and actions.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 5.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St John (15:1-8)
(See page 381.)

Reflection

Show the bunches of grapes to the children. What name do we give to the plants on which these fruits grow?
Grapes grow on plants called vines.

Do all grapes look and taste the same?

(Encourage the children to discuss differences in colour, sweetness and whether they are seedless or not.) Different varieties or types of vine produce grapes with different qualities and characteristics.

What do we call a farm where vines are grown?

A vineyard.

What can grapes be used for?

We can eat them fresh as sweet and delicious fruits; we can dry and preserve them as sultanas and raisins; or the fruits can be used to make wine.

Do we grow vines in the United Kingdom?

We have some vineyards, but our climate is not ideally suited for them because they need warm temperatures and plenty of sun. They were a familiar sight where Jesus lived, when many people drank wine because water was often scarce and not always safe to drink.

What would happen to the grapes on a branch if it is chopped off the vine?

The fruit on that branch would wither and die, and the harvest of grapes would be lost. A branch draws all its life from the main vine, which supplies it with the essential water and nutrients on which it depends.

Why do gardeners prune plants such as vines?

Pruning is the word used to describe cutting out dead or diseased parts of a plant to keep it healthy, and trimming back branches to encourage new and strong growth. At certain times in our lives (such as Lent), we 'prune' away the clutter in our lives, to encourage new and strong growth in our faith and to help us to become closer to

God. Just as a vineyard needs managing and cultivating in order for it to bear fruit, so our own spiritual lives need constant attention.

Jesus described himself as the 'vine' and us as his 'branches'. Who is the gardener who cares for the vine and helps its branches to bear fruit?

God the Father fills us with his life and helps us to grow strong in faith and love. He trims away the parts of our lives that would make us grow apart from him, and spoil the fruits of his love.

Jesus said, 'Because you have listened to me and understood my message, you will bear much fruit.' Was he talking about grapes or did he mean something else?

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. His Spirit fills us with life and helps us to become more like Jesus. His presence with us can be seen in the sort of people we are when the Spirit lives within our hearts. By living as Jesus has taught us and by following his example, we will bear the 'fruit of his love' in the world around us by sharing our joy, peace, love, patience, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness and self-control. (See Galatians 5:22-23 to name the fruits of the Spirit.)

Activity

Copy the figure of Jesus on to a large sheet of card. Use large potatoes cut in half, and the edges of lengths of cardboard, to create a vine print around the central figure of Christ by dipping them into green paint.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

Let us pray for the Church and all who follow Christ; may we bear the fruits of his love in our everyday lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for people whose lives are diseased by hatred and anger; may God's peace heal their pain and wounds.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for people who have grown away from God's love and truth; may the fruits we bear lead them back to him.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for people who are suffering and in pain; may they find strength and comfort in the fruits of their faith.

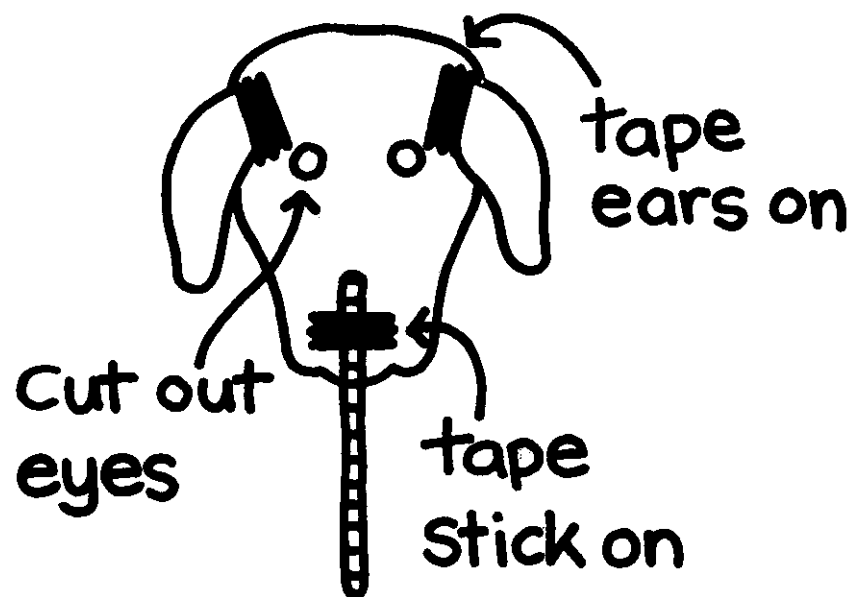
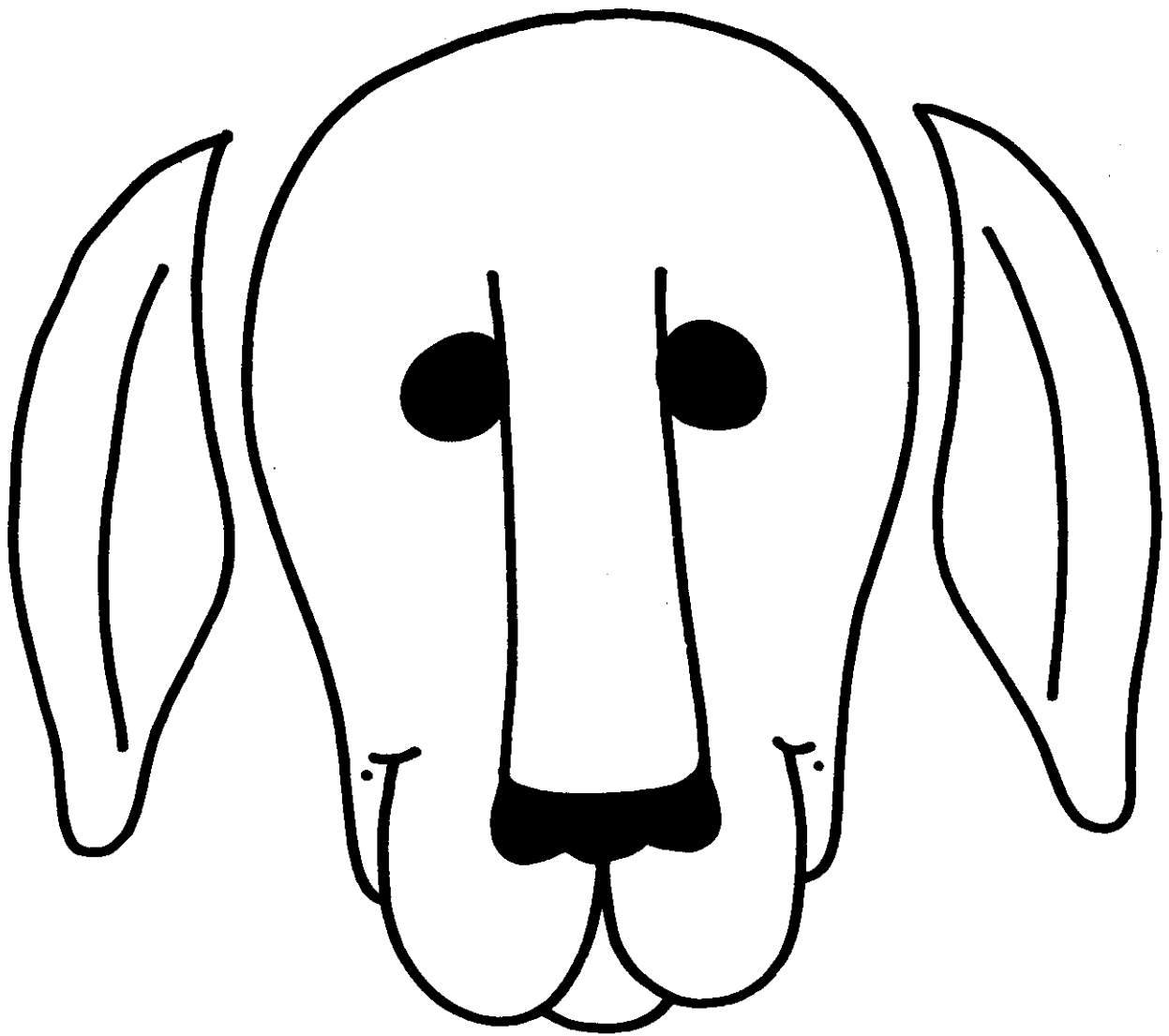
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts

let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
listen to the prayers of your children
and make our lives pleasing to you,
so that we may bear the fruits of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Fifth Sunday of Easter

I am the true vine

INTRODUCTION

A branch cannot live and produce fruit unless it is nourished by the tree or plant to which it is attached. Today Jesus compares himself to a vine, and we are the branches which bear the fruit of his love.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song.

SORRY

If Christ's spirit is living in us, then everyone will see the fruits of his presence: love, happiness, forgiveness, generosity, and honesty.

Heavenly father,
the fruits of your Holy Spirit
are not always obvious in our lives.
Prune away the parts of our lives
that stop us from growing strong
and fill us with your life and your love.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (JOHN 15:1-8)

Jesus told his disciples, "I am the true vine and my father is the gardener who tends the vine. Any of my branches which don't bear fruit are cut away, and the branches which carry fruit are pruned by him so that the following year they will produce even more.

"Because you have listened to and understood my message, you will bear much fruit. A branch that is cut off the vine will wither and die without producing any fruit. If you stay close to me and carry my words in your heart, then you will bear much fruit and truly be my disciple."

DISCUSSION

A gardener's job is to make sure that the plants which he or she tends are healthy and strong. One

way they can do this is by pruning. This means cutting away any dead, damaged, or weak stems and branches of a plant or tree. It encourages new growth by making the other buds and shoots grow strong and healthy.

(If possible, either demonstrate pruning using some gardening shears and a potted shrub or twig, or show the children some pictures of the technique in a gardening book.)

Good pruning builds a strong framework of branches but also encourages good fruit production for many years. By careful pruning, the good gardener keeps his plants strong and healthy, and every year they produce more and more fruit.

In today's Gospel, who was the vine and who was the gardener? Jesus described himself as being like a vine, with us as the branches. God the Father was the gardener who did the necessary pruning.

Jesus used the story of the vine and branches to explain that we are all part of him. It is through Jesus that we have life, and through the work of his father that we flourish and grow strong. He prunes away the things in our lives that make us weak or stop us from growing strong in faith and love.

Jesus is living and working in our lives, in our thoughts, our actions, and our words. By being kind and loving, ready to forgive, and honest and generous, the fruits of his love are there for all to see.

ACTIVITY

Use enlarged copies of the illustration for this activity, or draw a simple outline of a tree trunk on a large sheet of paper. Write "Jesus is the vine" on the trunk. Ask some of the children to stick on some small twigs into position using sticky tape. Add the caption "We are the branches." Ask the other children to color in large cutout fruits. Help them to label these with the fruits of God's love and to attach them to the branches.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, fill us with your life and love
so that we will produce much fruit
and a rich harvest for your sake.