

# LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES

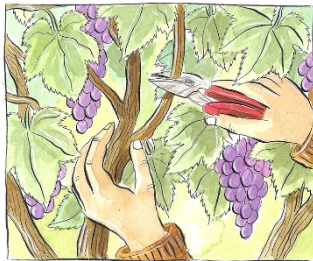


Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Read John 15.1-8

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

I am not a good gardener – I'm not even good at keeping house plants alive! I seem to give my plants too much water or too little water, and then they don't survive. Growing plants, especially fruit and vegetables, is a skill based on an understanding of what plants need to grow and thrive. Are you a good gardener? Have you grown any fruit or vegetables? What did they need in order to grow and produce good fruit or vegetables?



In today's gospel reading Jesus uses the idea of a grape vine to describe the relationship between God, Jesus and his followers. Jesus says that he is "the true vine". God is the vine-grower, and the followers of Jesus (us) are the branches of the vine. God gives us all the right conditions to grow and be fruitful – he gives us endless love and care. God also removes fruitless branches and prunes the branches that have fruit on them, so that they produce even more fruit.

If the branch is going to produce good fruit, it must stay connected to the vine. If we are to develop as Christians we must stay connected to Jesus and have a close relationship with him. What would it feel like if we were not connected to Jesus? Can you think of any times when you have felt very close to Jesus? Think of the ways you use to stay in touch with your friends – going to their homes, chatting to each other, sharing interests, texting or emailing etc. Is there anything you could do to feel more connected to Jesus?

What do you think Jesus means by producing "good fruit"? What kind of people would we be if we were producing good fruit?



## Activity

- This week try and connect with God outdoors through creation, perhaps by doing something unusual e.g. hug a tree; lie/roll on the grass; splash in a stream; watch an insect closely; look at the stars. How do you feel connected to God as you do this?
- Stay Connected - Is there anyone you haven't spoken or written to in a while? Make time to contact them this week.

## Prayer

**Jesus, you are the vine and we are the branches.**

**Help us this week to be connected by your love for us, and our love for each other.**

**Amen.**