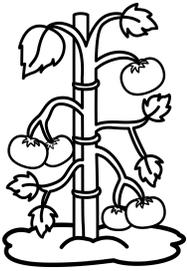


"I Am the Vine"

May 2018



Branching out

God designed
humanity to be
connected and
nurtured by Him.

The bible verse is about a vine, and usually people talk about grape vines, but why not a tomato or pumpkin vine?

"I am the vine;
you are the
branches..."

Supplies needed:

- Vine Display
- Memory verse display
- Real tomatoes still on a vine if possible or any vine fruit or veg.
- Activity sheet
- Memory verse cards

Set up

- Vine Display- Brown card strips to represent a vine
- Memory verse displayed in room.
- Tomatoes on a vine if possible or any fruit/veg that grow on a vine
- Activity sheets photocopied
- Memory verse card photocopied onto card and cut up.

Intro

Have you ever grown tomatoes? Or maybe beans? Pumpkin or watermelon?

What do all those plants have in common? They grow on vines.

What other fruit and veggies can we think of that grow on vines? Cucumbers?

What do you need to grow these plants? Sun, water, dirt?

Vines grow up from the ground, branches come off it, then the fruit grow from that.

Are all the branches connected into the vine?

Where does the vine get its water and nutrients?

Through the roots and through the vine.

Bible

Read John 15: 1

"I am the true vine and my father is the vine grower."

Who said this? Jesus. Who is He talking to? His disciples. Who is He talking about as his father? Joseph? No God.

Read John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

This is the bible passage we will be focusing on over the next couple of weeks. What does it mean? I wonder... We will explore it more but today we want to look at the idea of being connected in to Jesus.

Just as the branches are connected to the vine and get their water and nutrients from the branch, so as followers of Jesus, we are connected to Jesus and He gives us strength and power. This verse comes in the middle of Jesus explaining to His disciples that He is sending the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God to live in us and empower us.



Week 1

Activity/Small Groups

In smaller groups look up the verses on the cards in the resource pack. Match them with a possible attribute that the verse may be talking about the Spirit of God empowering us, or things we as disciples gain by being connected to Jesus.

“What does the Spirit of God empower us with?” Gods strength, power, love, life, joy, wisdom...

Choose to write out the verse on a piece of paper, or just paraphrase with the reference. Post those things up on the wall underneath the vine. Each group could present about the verse or verses they looked up and stick up the verse on the wall under the vine.

Then each child can make their own branch out of a piece of brown card and connect it to the vine. This will be used in following weeks as we attach fruit to their vines etc.

Connecting it back

Make branches for the cross-cultural workers your church supports.

“The workers our church support are enabling the Good News of Jesus to be shared all over the world. These people are connected in to the Vine and are sharing about Jesus so more people will be connected in to the Vine. In to Jesus.”

Add the cross-cultural workers branches to your class vine.

Have the kids cut up lots of blank branches to add to your class vine.

Add lots of blank branches to your vine to represent all the people they know and the people around the world that don't yet know Jesus and who are not yet connected in to the vine.

Activity sheet to complete in session or to take home.

We are the
branches
connected to
Jesus.

Today, through the work of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit we continue to reach out, so that more might experience a life-giving relationship with God.

Together we share
the love of Jesus
and invite people to
connect with the
God who
designed and
created them.

I am the Vine

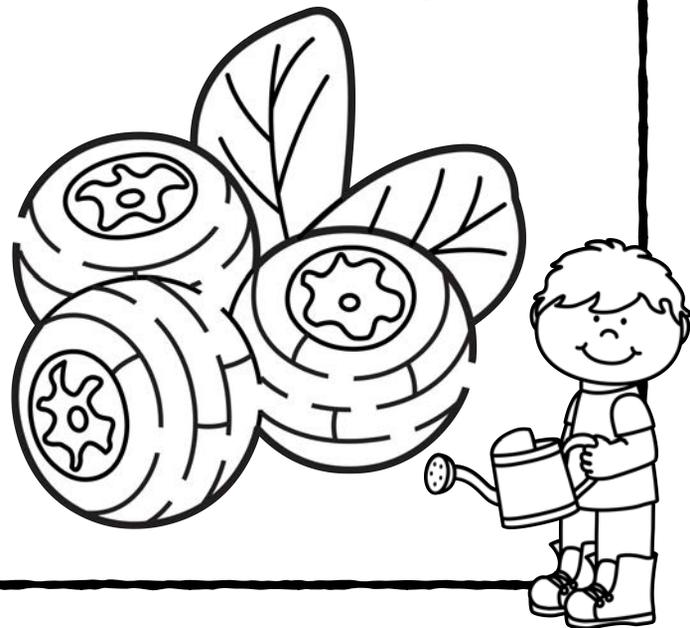
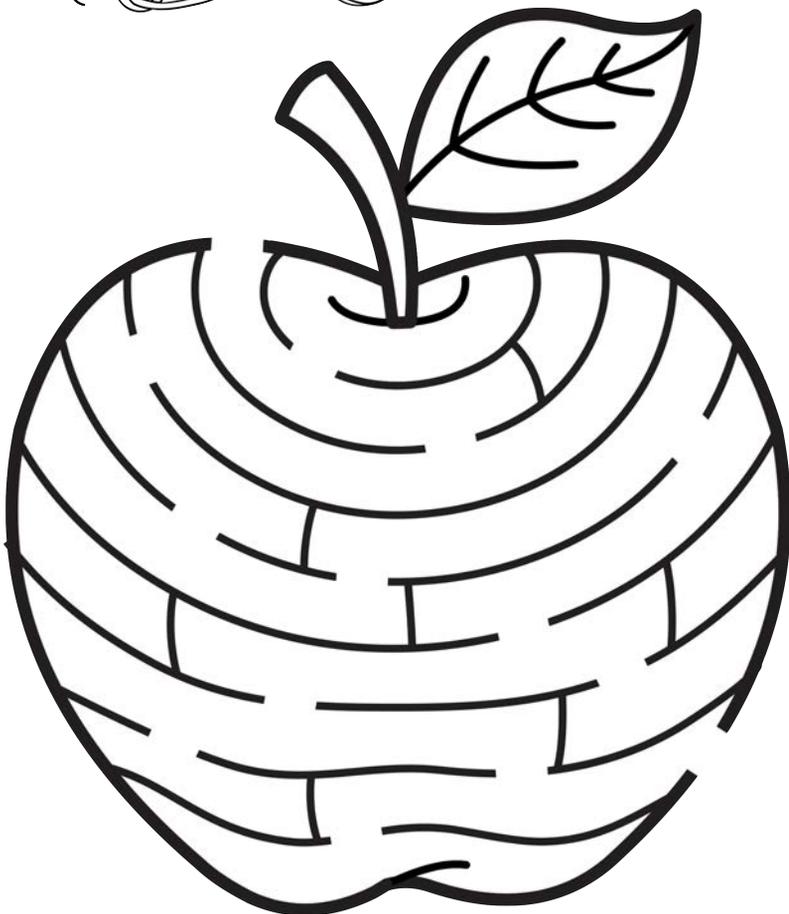
Older Kids
Week 1

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

v	i	n	e	h	a	b	c	d	s
c	v	n	p	o	w	e	r	a	t
o	f	g	h	l	o	v	e	d	r
n	e	r	a	y	l	o	n	l	e
n	o	j	e	s	u	s	b	s	n
e	a	e	i	p	a	b	r	c	g
c	f	r	u	i	t	c	a	l	t
t	b	f	j	r	a	t	n	p	h
e	c	g	k	i	b	h	c	l	o
d	d	h	o	t	c	r	h	e	r

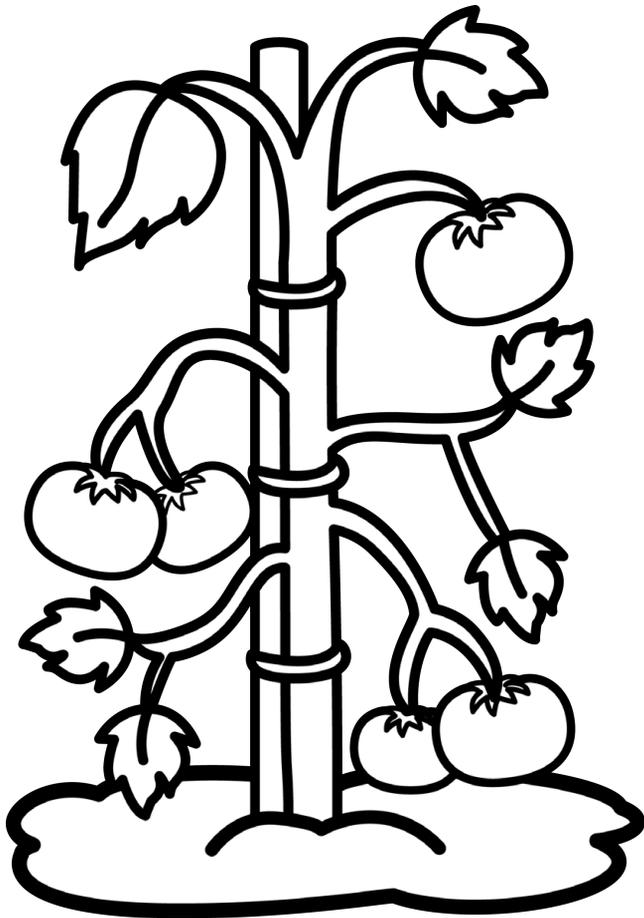
Words to find:

- Vine
- Branch
- Fruit
- Jesus
- Disciple
- Connected
- Holy Spirit
- Loved
- Power
- Strength



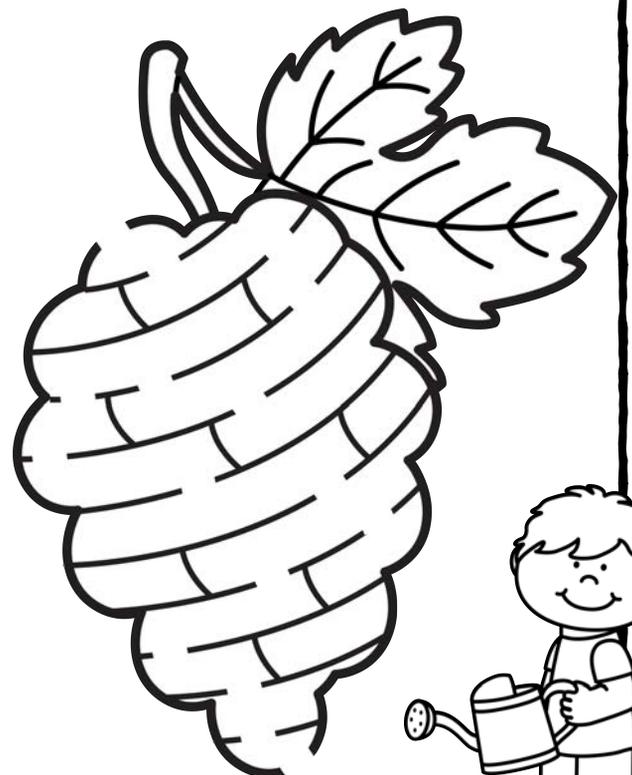
I am the Vine

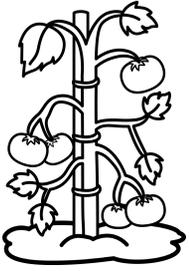
Younger Kids
Week 1



"I am the
vine; you are
the branches. If
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me and I in you,
you will bear
much fruit;
apart from me
you can do
nothing."
John 15:5

I am
the
Vine





Bearing the

Set up

- Vine display- brown card strips to represent a vine from last week
- Memory verse displayed in room.
- Assorted fruit eg a banana, apple or whatever you have at home!
- Activity sheets photocopied
- Memory verse card photocopied onto card and cut up.

Intro

Plate or bag of whole fruit. Where do you think I got this fruit from?

There are a few ways to get fruit.

- I could go to the shop and buy it.
- Work hard and grow it.
- I could take it from someone else's tree!

Where does **your** family get fruit?

Who remembers what we learnt last week?

We spoke about being connected into the Vine. Jesus said that as followers of His we are connected to Him. And through the Spirit of God we are empowered with strength, patience... etc. (The bible verses we looked up and displayed under your vine)

Bible

Who can remember the verse we started learning last week? Anyone have it memorised already?

Today we will focus on the section 'If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit...' so what is this verse in John saying about fruit?

Where else have you heard about fruit in the Bible? In Galatians 5:22 Paul speaks about the Fruits of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22

Is that the sort of person you would like to be? I would love to be someone who has love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness... all those things! That is, what we call, manifestations of the Spirit of God, or what will result in us, in me, in you, when we remain in Jesus and Him in us.

"If you remain
in me and I in
you, you will
bear much
fruit..."
projects are a
manifestation
of fruits

Supplies needed:

- Vine Display
- Memory verse display
- A bowl of fruit
- Printable fruit large for groups
- Personal fruit sheets copied
- string, sticky tape, popsticks, scissors, pencils for each child
- Activity sheet to take home

Fruit of God

Reflection

Back to my plate of fruit. How did I get this fruit?

There is one other way - It can be a gift.

This fruit Jesus is talking about is... a gift... freely given... to us.

Working hard or being a good person is not the way to get more. Following Jesus is the only way to get the gift of the Fruits of the Spirit of God.

If you are connected to Jesus. These fruit will grow. These things will appear in your life. You don't need to force them. Connect in with Jesus. And they will be yours. They will start to grow in your life.

As we follow Jesus we will become more like Him. He will change us and make us into the kind of people we deep down want to be - the people He made us to be. We will be people filled with love, joy, peace and patience etc. What an amazing world it would be if every person in the whole world was like this. There would be no more war, pain, suffering or hurt. That is what it would be like if Jesus ruled every heart. The kingdom of God, it is near and we can be apart of it today.

Activity/Small Groups

Now we are going to take these fruit shapes on card and write on them.

"God is growing Kindness in us" big team fruit. Have eight large fruit for each group. Have the groups assign a fruit of the spirit to each fruit, write it on and then cut them out. The children then sign each fruit of the spirit. These fruit can be stuck up onto your vine from last week.

Next pass out pages of little fruit to take home and string up. Have the child write thier name on the banner and if there is time make up the little banner and string the fruit on each side. "God is growing fruit in [child's name]"

Connecting it back

Your life, your witness to others is a manifestation of your fruit. You will be fruity people. And God will use that. It says, two chapter before this verse, in John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We need to pray that our cross-cultural workers are very fruity people. We need to pray for the fruit of God to keep growing in their lives. So that the people they are working with will know that they are Jesus' disciples.

Lord make our cross-cultural workers extra fruity!



If you are connected to Jesus. These Fruits of the Spirit will grow. These things will appear in your life. You don't need to force them.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

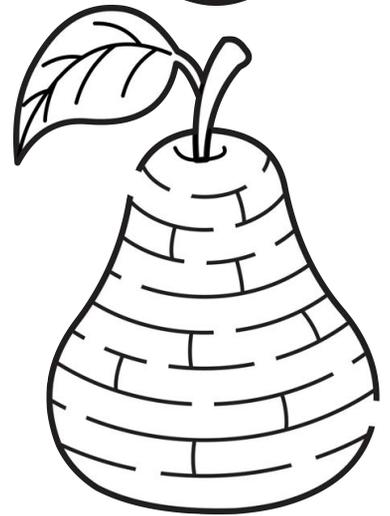
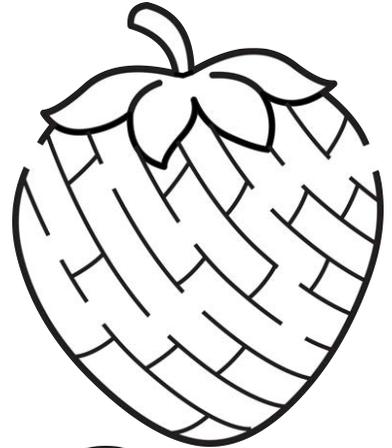
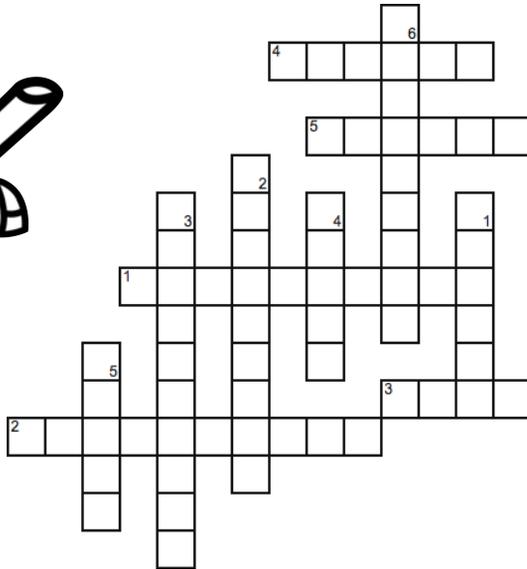
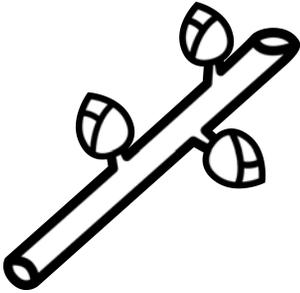
John 13:34-35

Lord make our cross-cultural workers extra fruity!

You are the branches

Older Kids
Week 2

Fruit

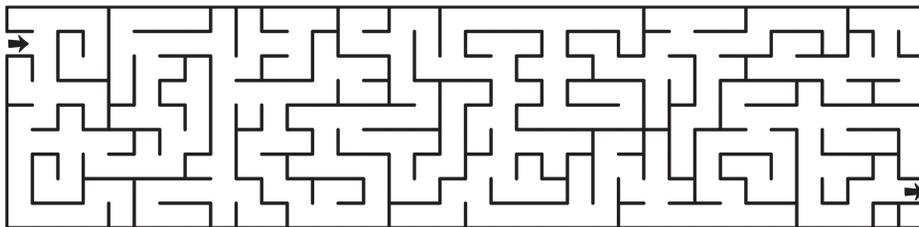


Across

1. a large round fruit with hard green skin, red flesh, and black seeds
2. a round yellow citrus fruit with a thick skin, like a large orange
3. a sweet juicy fruit that has a round base and is thinner near the top
4. a spiny oval tropical fruit containing a creamy pulp. Despite its fetid smell it is highly valued for its flavour
5. a small round red or black fruit with a long thin stem and a stone in the middle

Down

1. a long curved tropical fruit with a yellow skin
2. a small sweet blue-black edible berry which grows in clusters on North American shrubs related to the bilberry
3. a small black or purple berry from a bush that has thorns (=sharp points)
4. a fruit with a hard yellow skin and sour juice
5. a round stone fruit with juicy yellow flesh and downy pinkish-yellow skin
6. a large yellow-brown tropical fruit or its sweet juicy yellow flesh



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

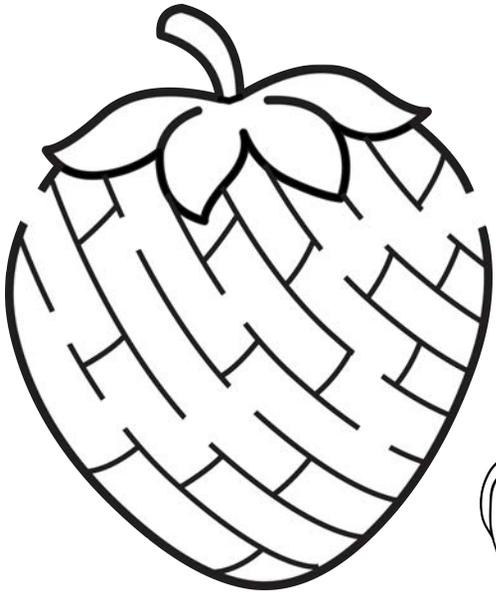
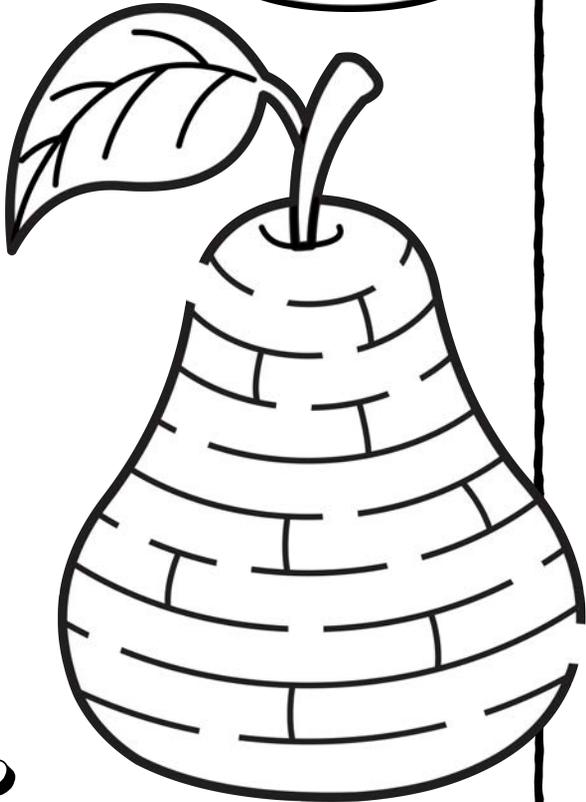


- Down
1. banana
 2. blueberry
 3. blackberry
 4. lemon
 5. peach
 6. pineapple

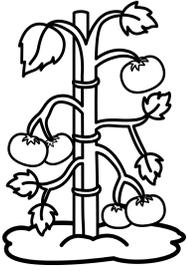
- Across
1. watermelon
 2. grapefruit
 3. pear
 4. durian
 5. cherry

Younger Kids
Week 2

I am the
Vine;
you are
the
branches.



"I am the
vine; you are
the branches.
If you remain in
me and I in you,
you will bear
much fruit;
apart from me
you can do
nothing."
John 15:5



God produces

Set up

- Vine and Memory verse display in room.
- Flowers
- Water balloons, balloon pump and craft supplies
- Activity sheets photocopied
- Extra memory verse cards for new children.

Intro

How long did your Easter chocolate last? A day or two? Was it good? Some things don't last. We have them and then they are gone.

Have some flowers picked from you garden.

How long do you think these flowers will stay beautiful for? How long till they wither? A few days? Will its stem be able to produce more flowers? Why not? Stems need to be connected to the plant in order to produce flowers.

Bible

Who has John 15:5 memorised? Two or three children could stand up and try to recite the verse without looking.

In week one we spoke about how powerful God is and how we can be connected in through Jesus. Last week we spoke about how God wants to grow that fruit in us, and make us more like Jesus.

Today we are focusing on the part of the verse that says '...apart from me you can do nothing.'

In Matthew 7:16-20, Jesus says 'By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them.

In John 15:4 Jesus says, "Remain in me, as I remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

It can be a little hard to hear that all our striving, hard work and great ideas mean very little if God is not at the centre. And yet Jesus' message is clear - without the Vine, the branches wither and die.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Supplies needed:

- Vine display
- Memory verse display
- Flowers
- Water balloon pack per group
- Green paper & ribbon
- Balloon pump per group
- Activity sheet
- Extra memory verse cards for new kids.

Good fruit

Reflection

Apple trees produce apples. Pear trees produce pears. We produce good stuff when we are connected into God.

Good fruit can not come from a bad tree. Jesus says we can even test a person by their fruit! If they are doing bad things, then they aren't connected in to Jesus.

If your heart is hard, and you are far from God and not connected to Jesus. These things wont grow. You might be able to work on them... but if you are connected to Christ, you will grow more loving, joyful and all those things. You will become amazing. We call this becoming Christlike. Its a gift from God.

How do we remain in God then?

Reading our Bibles, prayer, being apart of a community of believers. All these things help us stay on track with God.

But what it really comes down to is our hearts. We need to be following Jesus with all of our hearts. John 15:9-10 says "As the Father has loved me, so I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my fathers commands and remain in his love." And what is His command? Love each other.

Activity/Small Groups

Each group will need a pack of water balloons and a balloon pump. Blow up the little balloons and attach a leaf to the top to make it resemble fruit. There may be enough for a few baloons each that can be tied onto green or brown curling ribbon to make a small fruit necklace. Make sure each child has at least one of each bible verse leaves attached.

Connecting it back

Our cross-cultural workers are there to show people about Jesus. People catch a glimps of Jesus in us when they see the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives. It is so important that our cross-cultural workers remain in Jesus and keep His commands, following in His steps every day, so that they may be a witness for Jesus.

We need to pray for the workers our church and our families support. Pray that the will remain in Jesus and keep His commands. We need to pray that they will devote themselves to following Jesus, just as we all should be doing.



"As the Father has loved me, so I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my fathers commands and remain in his love."

John 15:9-10

*Without Him,
we can do
nothing -
nothing of
real, eternal
value.*

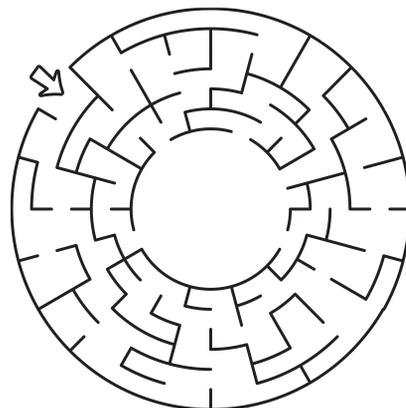
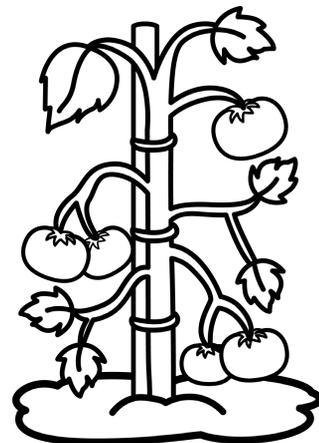
In John 15:4 Jesus says, "Remain in me, as I remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Those who remain in me will
bear much fruit.



Fruits of the Spirit

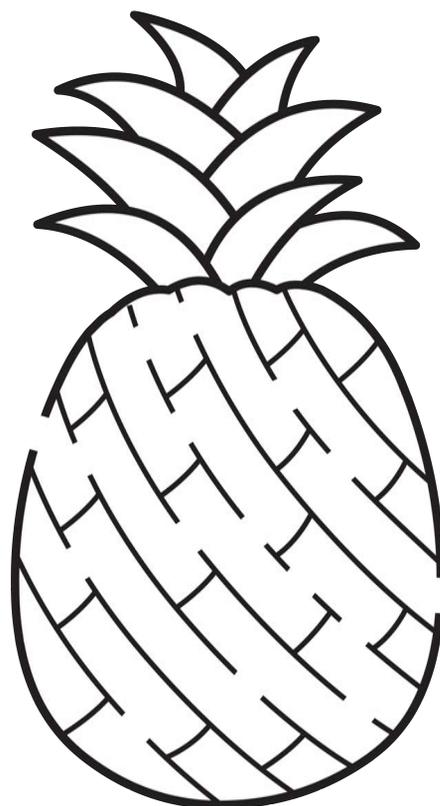
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U U O A E X N T Q X Q M K C U
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O V N H T B L F N E B R P Q P
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Q M T W M T P J M W T M L E L
J P V H U R B O O X T J Q P I
I F A I T H F U L N E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



Word List

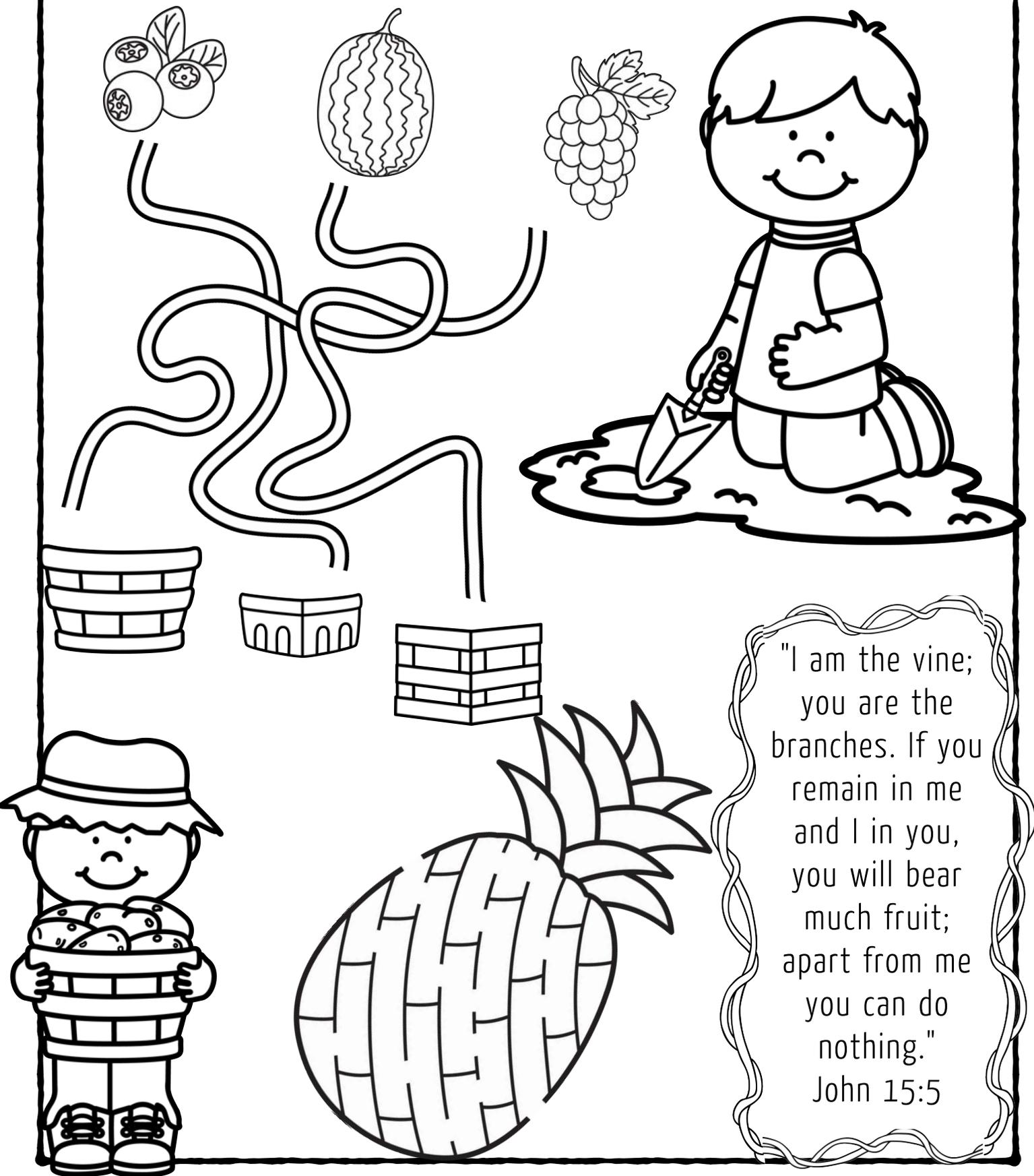
1. LOVE
2. JOY
3. PEACE
4. PATIENCE
5. KINDNESS
6. GOODNESS
7. FAITHFULNESS
8. GENTLENESS

"I am the vine;
you are the
branches. If you
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and I in you,
you will bear
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nothing."
John 15:5

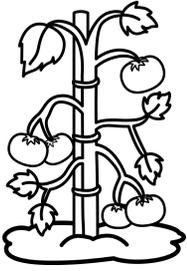


Those who
remain in me will
bear much fruit.

Younger Kids
Week 3



"I am the vine;
you are the
branches. If you
remain in me
and I in you,
you will bear
much fruit;
apart from me
you can do
nothing."
John 15:5



Love each

Jesus isn't on about religion, or rules. He wants you to live life. Amazing life. Just like He created you to live.

"I am the vine;
you are the
branches. If you
remain in me and
I in you, you will
bear much fruit;
apart from me
you can do
nothing."
John 15:5

Supplies needed:

- Vine display
- Memory verse display
- Branches with forks
- wool/yarn
- Plastic wool needles (or wrap an end of the yarn with sticky tape to create a 'needle')
- Scissors
- Practice yarn weave
- Activity sheet
- Memory verse cards

Set up

- Vine display
- Memory verse displayed in room.
- Craft materials for branch weaving
- Activity sheets photocopied

Intro

Who is good at following directions? Get a child up to demonstrate how good they are at verbs. What is a verb? A doing word, eg run, jump, hop, skip, walk etc. Make it harder by having them freeze if you say a noun or act if you say a verb. Thank them for their participation!

What does it mean to love someone? Who do you love? Who loves you? Is love a verb? Back in the ancient greek they had a few words that we use for love, but this one that is used most in the Bible is 'Agape' is about brotherly/sisterly love and affection. Who knows John 3:16? For God so loved the world that he gave his own son. That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. The love in that sentence is a verb. So what is a verb? A doing word. God is doing love by sending Jesus. How great is that!

Bible

Have a good old fashion bible race and see who can find the verse first. Have three winners read the **John 15:5** passage out. Next verses to look up and read out...

John 15:12-13 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:16-17 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my Name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus loved His disciples so much that He gave His life for them, for us. We are chosen by God. He has a plan for our lives. He wants to change us and send us out. Love each other.

He is our ultimate example of what it means to love each other. It may seem impossible or unreachable, but what were those Fruits of the Spirit again? Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Self control. That is how we love each other! With the gifts that he freely gives to us. We just need to use them. And love each other.

Other



Reflection

That is good news is it not? God gives us what we need to love each other. If you know people; friends, family, who are hurting, struggling, who need Jesus, who need peace, patience and kindness. You can tell them about this gift. You can show them that Jesus made a way and He wants you to be healed whole and right again. He wants to develop love, joy, peace and all the fruit in your life. And in the people around you.

God created me to be me! He made you to be you! By following Jesus He helps us to live in love and grows the Fruits of the Spirit in our life. He sets us free from sin and darkness, free from the pointless worries of this world, to live in freedom and in His mighty power. He enables us to love others.

Activity/Small groups

Branch weaving.

Hand out one branch per child, each about 20cm long with a fork or t-intersection. Have one longer piece of wool per child, and then 5-8 sections of different colours about 30 coming long.

Thread the longer piece of wool back and forth, winding a couple of times before going back, to create a base to weave your shorter lengths of wool on.

Thread a shorter piece onto the wool needle and then weave the wool up and back. Have a look at these blogs to understand better!

www.artbarblog.com/branch-weaving/

For an easier option look at www.faithfullittlehands.com/the-vine-and-the-branches-bible-craft/ which involves just wrapping the yarn around a stick.

Talk about how we are wrapped in God's love, and attach the bible verse cards.

Connecting it back

This is why cross-cultural workers go. They need to share this life-changing message of Jesus. They feel God saying, "Who will I send? Who will go for me?" They stand up and say here I am, I will go. Use me. Send me.

Maybe God is stirring something in your heart. He can use you to tell people this Good News. He can help people who are suffering and give them new life in Jesus.

It would seem that if we're connected with the Vine, not bearing fruit is not an option. The overflow of God's love and work in our lives will show glimpses of God and bring to life the message of Jesus to those who are ready to hear.

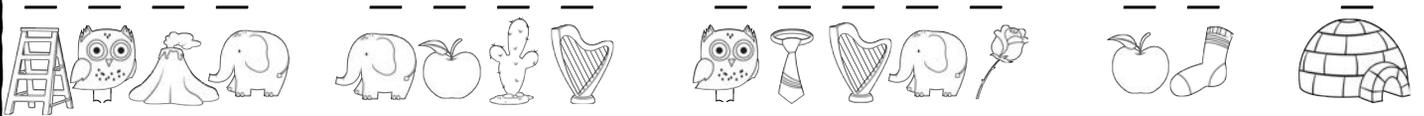
Are you being called to share a message of love as living, growing, active branches of His mighty vine?

Among least-reached people groups today there are many who are ready to hear. God has been preparing their hearts and minds for His message – they are just waiting for someone to share it in a way that makes sense to them.

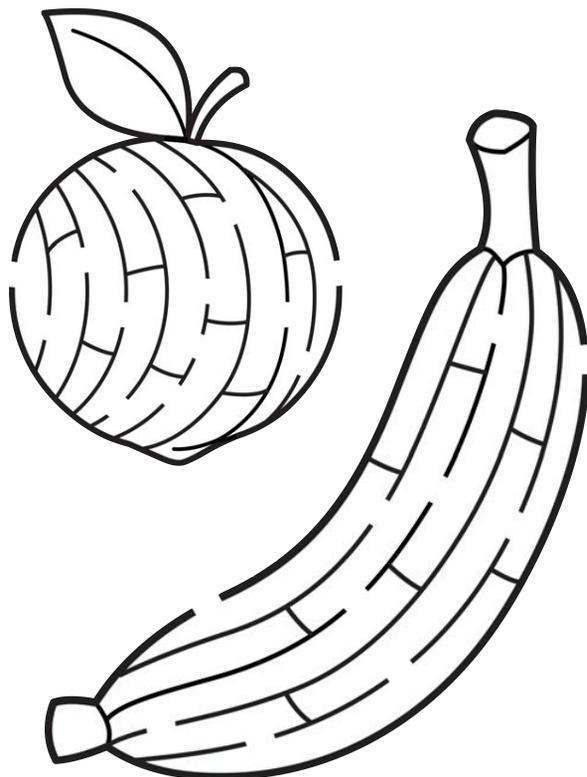
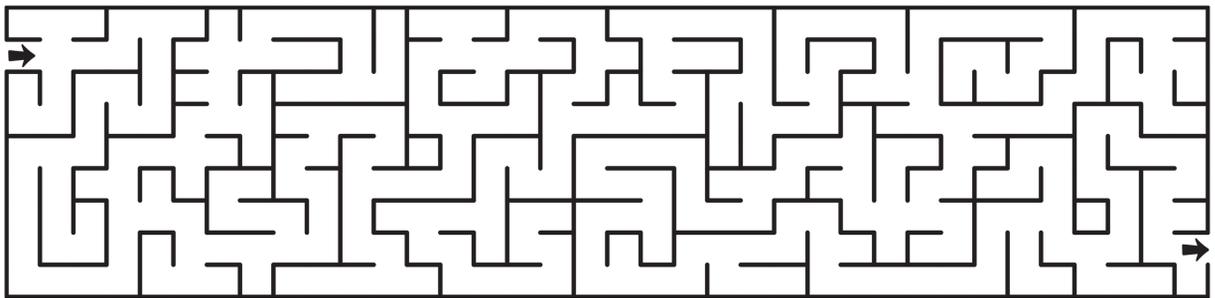
Love each other

Older Kids
Week 4

Write the starting letter to break the code.



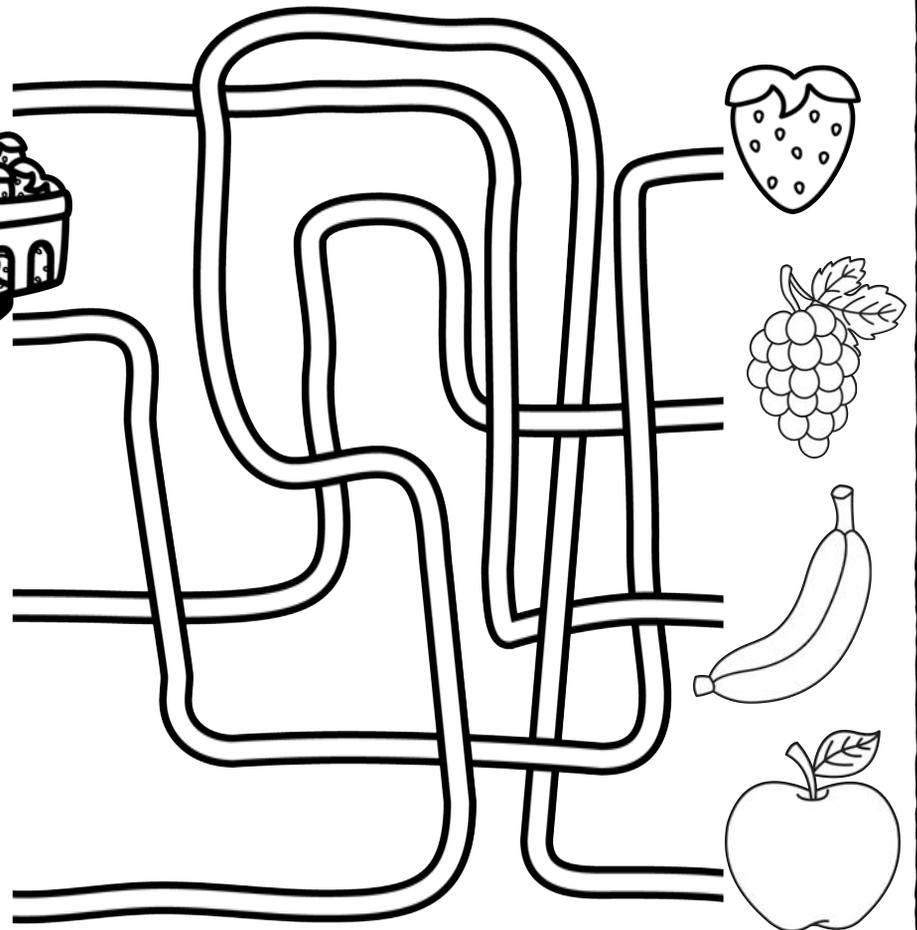
John 5:12



"I am the vine;
you are the
branches. If you
remain in me
and I in you,
you will bear
much fruit;
apart from me
you can do
nothing."
John 15:5

Love each other

Younger Kids
Week 4



"I am the vine;
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John 15:5

