

*This script is for two voices (narrator + Jesus) with actions in red. You will need a simple tree of some kind, with at least one branch, to which you can attach labels - see the script for details.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the grapevine, and you are the branches.”

Has anyone ever seen a grapevine?

They’re not very common in this country, are they? Here, we’re more likely to see apples, plums and blackberries than grapes growing in the countryside. But there were lots of grapevines where Jesus lived.

Maybe they looked a bit like this.

*Take out plant pot with trunk, branch and leaves.*

Jesus said that he is the grapevine.

*Label the trunk: Jesus.*

And we are the branches.

*Label the branch: You & Me.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me.”

The trunk is where the branches get all the goodness and food that they need.

What would happen if a branch wasn’t joined to the trunk?

That’s right - it would die. The trunk is what gives the branches life. The trunk gives the branches everything they need.

And *Jesus* gives *us* everything we need.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you.”

But how can we stay joined to Jesus?

*Label the place where the branches join the trunk, or have flags with the words on, to plant in the plant pot with the vine.*

*Prayer:* We can tell him what we need, and thank him for all he does for us.

*Scripture:* We can get to know Jesus better by reading the Bible.

*Worship:* We can get close to Jesus when we sing and pray with other people.

*Love:* When we do our best to love and serve other people, Jesus is always with us.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“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.”

What kind of fruit was he talking about? We’re not going to start sprouting grapes or apples or potatoes!

But do you remember the fruits of the Spirit, which we’ve looked at in Messy Church before? When we stay close to Jesus, other people begin to see all sorts of beautiful things in our lives.

*Attach the fruit to the branches.*

Things like [*invite children to bring out their signs*]:

*Love*

*Joy*

*Peace*

*Patience*

*Kindness*

*Goodness*

*Faithfulness*

*Gentleness*

*Self-control*

It's not always easy for us to grow this kind of fruit, is it? But God will help us to change, if we let him. Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.”

When God chops away the bits that aren't right, it's not always very comfortable. We might need to let go of how hurt we feel by someone, or how angry they make us feel. We might need to give up our time and energy to help someone. We might need to let go of how safe we feel, and step out into something new. But God loves us so much that when we let him help us, everything changes.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.”

When we stay close to Jesus, we begin to understand how we should pray. We begin to want what he wants. And when that happens, Jesus makes this amazing promise:

“Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.”

Let us pray.