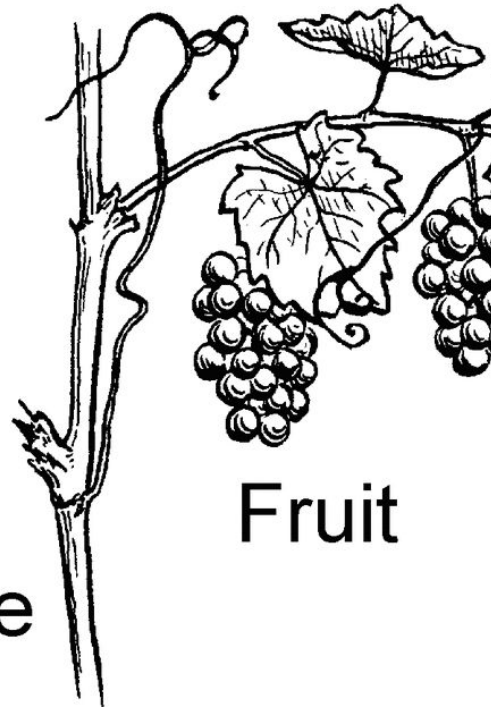
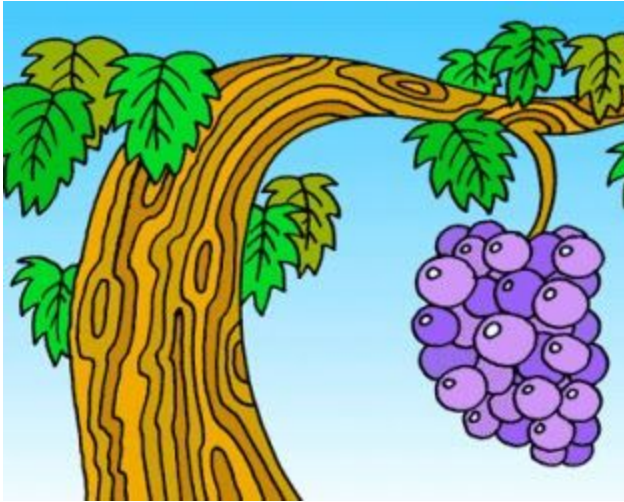


I am the Vine and You are the Branches
John 15
Greenfield Church of Christ
Children's Lesson

Today's lesson comes in part from "Happy Hearts Bible Study".

Let's talk about a tree and its parts (branches, trunk, leaves, roots). They are all connected and all a part of the same thing. A vine is just like a tree, but we see more trees. Vines produce fruit and the fruit is connected by the branch.



Vine

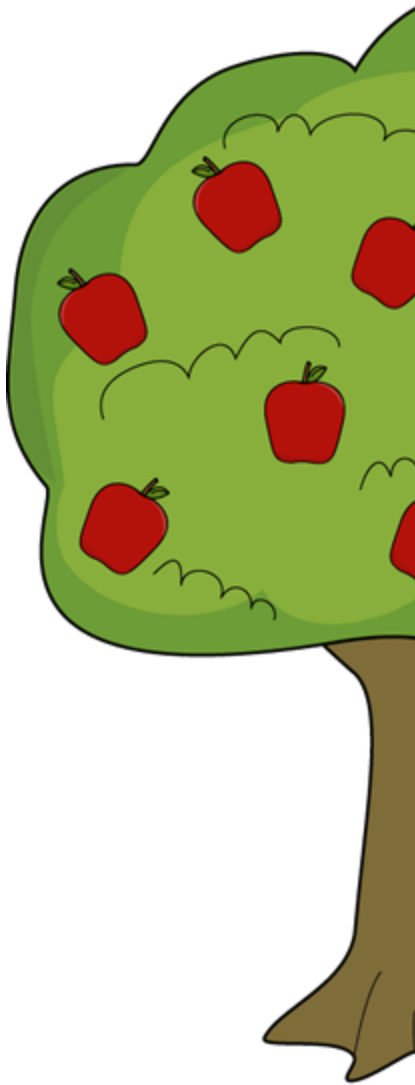
Fruit



Here's a picture of a vine that is alive. Fruit is connected to the vine and the vine is growing. Just like a tree, all the parts are connected and growing together.



Here's a picture of a vine that is no longer growing. It no longer produces any fruit.



Look at these apple trees.
Like we said before, a tree is like a vine. The leaves are connected to the branches and the branches are connected to the tree. Look at the apples in the tree. This is the fruit of the tree.



When the fruit is growing, it shows that the vine is also growing. You cannot have fruit, if you are not connected to the vine!

Jesus had twelve friends who followed Him and helped Him teach. Sometimes a lot of people came to see and listen to Jesus. When they went home, Jesus told His friends even more about what He had been saying. This helped them be better teachers.

Jesus said: " I am the vine, and you are the branches. Stay joined to me so you can be part of my teaching. But you cannot do anything without me. Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you."

Think about what this means. Jesus is our vine, our foundation. He is what we must hold on to and follow as we live our lives. We are the branches. This means that we need to reach out and teach others and help others learn about God! If we are not connected to Jesus, then we cannot be fruitful. We have to spread God's word and love and teachings to everyone! We have to share the good news about Jesus!!

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the vine? (Jesus)
2. Who are the branches? (We are.)
3. Have you ever picked fruit before? (Yes or no.) Fruit can't grow anymore when it's not on the vine. If it comes off of the vine too early, it has to be thrown away because it's not ready to be eaten and even it might make you sick.
4. What happens if the fruit stays on the vine until it's ripe or ready to be picked? (It keeps growing and getting bigger and more delicious.)

*Eventually, when the fruit is ready, it is picked off the vine and will be shared with others. More fruit will grow in its place. Knowing about and loving Jesus is like growing on the vine. To keep growing, we must stay close to Jesus then we can share with others. One way to do this is talking to Him, also called praying.

Think about saying a prayer similar to this: "Jesus, You are the vine and we are the branches. Help us to stay as close to You as the fruit stays on the vine. Give us the strength to always do what is right and good. In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen."

You are loved,
Ms. Shantelle

Activity:

1. This activity is a maze called "I am the Vine, you are the Branches"

a. Think about as many good deeds as you can.

Examples: Putting away clothes, Making your bed, Reading the Bible, Behaving for Mom and Dad, Helping a brother or sister, Sharing toys, Picking up toys, Doing homework well, Worshipping

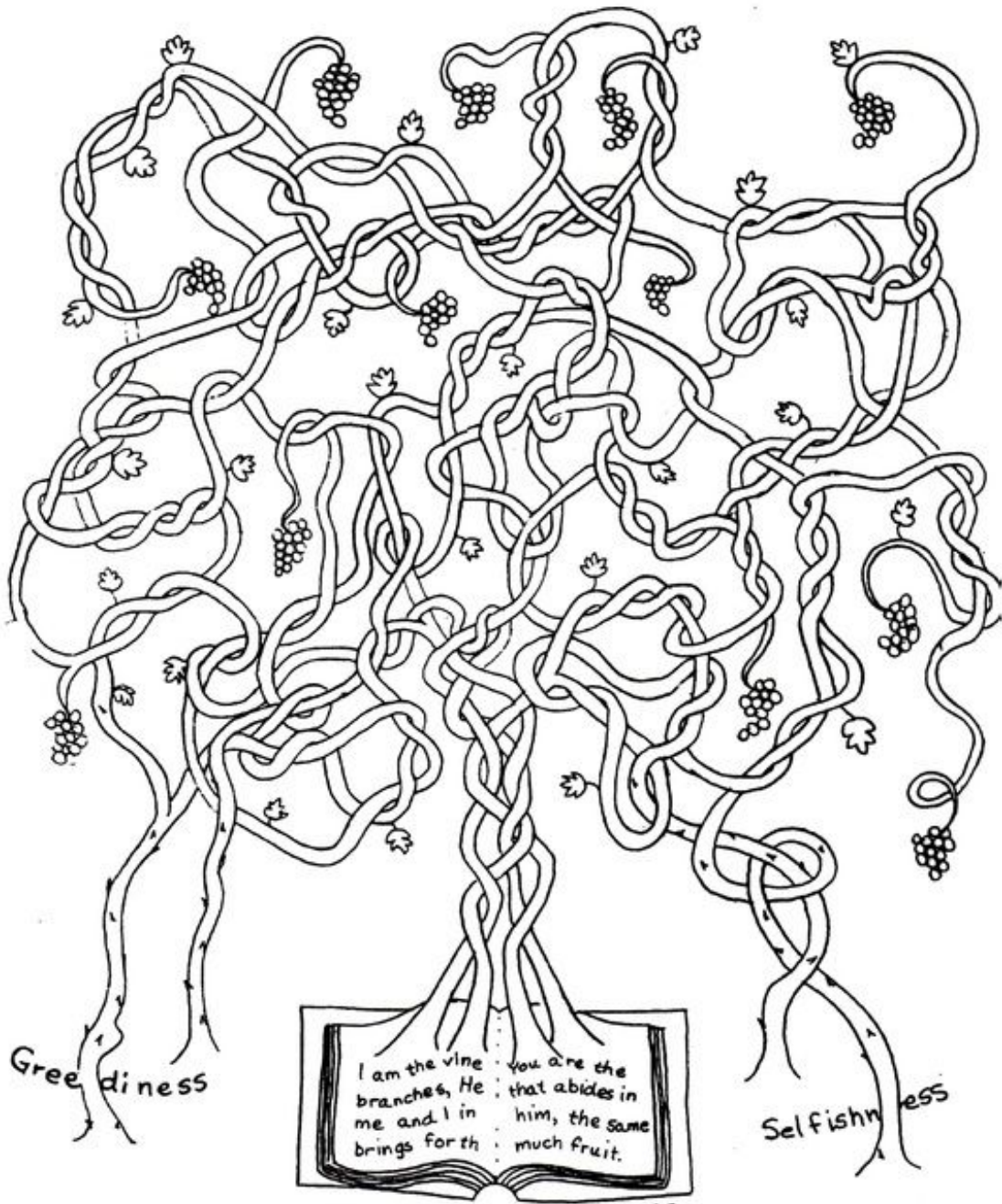
b. Remember our verse: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Talk to and listen to me to keep growing." (adapted John 15:5)

c. Are you a branch? Do you produce fruit? The Lord says you are, and you do. But how?

d. Follow the maze showing vines rooted in the Word and in other ideas:

e. Trace which vines are connected to the Bible. Color the grapes, which grow from the Bible purple, and their vines gold and the leaves green.

f. Color everything else brown.



Greedy

I am the vine : you are the
branches, He : that abides in
me and I in : him, the same
brings forth : much fruit.

Selfish



25th Sunday of the Year A-B