

The Eucharist is about belonging – Part B

Parent Note: **Think about using this part of the retreat as an evening prayer experience.**

Praying with Scripture – The Vine and the Branches

Gather your family in one place – perhaps the family room. Have the YouTube clip cued up and ready to play. Take a look at the image on page 4 to give you some ideas for leading the discussion.

Candle Lighting – If possible, use the First Communion Candle your child received earlier in the year, but any candle will do.



Ask the First Communicant to light the candle, saying,

First Communicant: Christ is our Light

All: Thanks be to God

Choose a family member to read the following Scripture passage. Print out a copy or read from a Bible.

A reading from the Gospel of John - John 15: 5-12

“I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I remain in him, then he produces much fruit. But without me he can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, then he is like a branch that is thrown away. That branch dies. People pick up dead branches, throw them into the fire, and burn them. Remain in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you. You should produce much fruit and show that you are my followers. This brings glory to my Father. I loved you as the Father loved me. Now remain in my love. I have obeyed my Father’s commands, and I remain in his love. In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have. I want your joy to be the fullest joy.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection Option 1: Video reflection <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEiIEfThEjk>

[Better suited for younger children ages 3-8](#)

Reflection Option 2: Vine and Branches Craft project – materials are in your packet. This Project does not have to be turned in, though you may want to hang the completed project on the refrigerator or in the First Communicant’s room.

[Better suited for kinesthetic learners \(hands on learners\) ages 3-11](#)

Reflection Option 3: Use the Vine and Branches graphic (see page 4 below) to lead a Reflection.

[Better suited for highly visual learners of all ages](#)

Reflection Option 4: Faith Sharing led by parents

Better suited to children 6 and up

Reflection Questions provided below, the parent leads the discussion

Comprehension questions – do we understand the story?

1. What does the vine do for the branches? (it is the source of life for the branches)
2. What happens if the branch is cut off from the vine? (it withers and dies)
3. What do the branches do for the vine (the branches produce the fruit)
4. What happens to the vine if it's branches does not produce fruit (it is cut down)

Application Questions – How do I apply the lessons from the story in my own life?

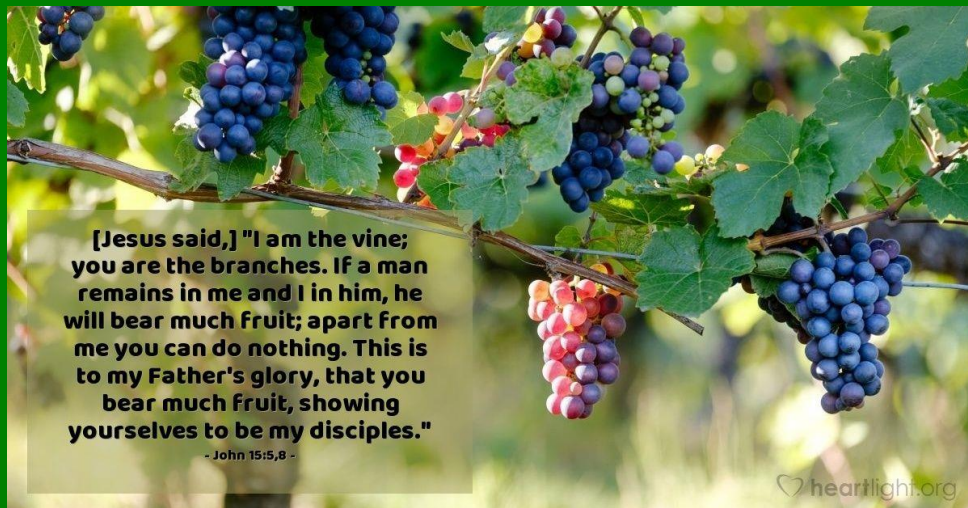
1. How is our family like a vine?
2. What fruit is our family producing? What good things are we sharing with each other and with the world?
3. How is Jesus like a vine for us?
4. What fruit are we producing as disciples of Jesus?

Tip:

- Feel free to use any of the reflection options or combine them. Do what works Best for your family.
- Feel free to come up with your own questions.
- Another interesting way to make sure everyone understood the story is to have Your kids up with questions – at least the comprehension questions.

Slide 5 – The Vine and the Branches – Making the connection with the Eucharist

The Eucharist keeps us connected to God, the source of our life, helps us grow in faith and produce the fruits of love. Without the Eucharist our spirits wilt and our faith begins to wane.



Parent notes

Making the connection with our Catholic beliefs about the Eucharist.

1. As Catholics, we believe we experience and share God's love through the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.
2. We believe each time we celebrate the sacraments we are formed and strengthened as intentional disciples of Christ. The more frequently we receive the sacraments, the stronger we become as disciples.
3. As a community of faith, we promise to help each other prepare for, celebrate and live out what the sacraments call us to and effect in us; the development of a deeply personal and intimate relationship with the living God and the whole of God's creation.
4. Without the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, our spirits wilt and our faith begins to wane.

To close this session

- **Song: Abide with Me** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GluC9-4aB7Q>
 - Option 1:** Sit quietly together and listen to the following song
 - Option 2:** This is a song we sing frequently at Holy Family so feel free to join in singing – the lyrics are on the YouTube video
- **Share the Sign of Christ's Peace with one another**



It is time to take a break! Thank everyone for spending this time together as a family and for their sharing. If someone said or did something that was especially kind, thoughtful, made you think, or helped you understand something, thank that person by name.

Might going for ice cream and taking a walk be in the cards?

Reflection Option 3: The Vine and Branches Graphic

