

Fifth Sunday of Easter – year B

Preparation

Read over these: [Acts 8:26-40](#) and [John 15:1-8](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/easterb5.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115869_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/branches.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east5kales.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/5Easter-b/A-5Easter-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwss.htm#e5>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/272TheTrueVine.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Bring two different types of toys – for example, stuffed toys and little people

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!
Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!
Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!

Blow out the candle. Place the toys down in front of the children. Ask them to put them into groups where the toys are all the same. Ask the children how they knew which types of toys went with each other. (*Wait for their responses.*)

Then ask the children how they know how people belong to different groups.

(*Some possible responses – by what they wear, handshakes, or buildings that they go into.*)

Ask the children how they know someone is a follower of Jesus, a Christian. Explain that in today's story they will hear about someone who becomes a new follower and how we know that they are part of the church.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions
- Bowl of water
- Grapes (if you have them)

It had been quite a while since Jesus had died and risen again. Jesus followers and friends were becoming leaders in the community that was following Jesus' way to God. One of those friends was Philip.

An angel came to Philip and gave him some instructions from God. The angel said, "Get up and go south on the road. God has something important for you to do."

Philip did as the angel told him. As he went down the road, Philip remembered what Jesus had taught them about vine and branches. Jesus had taught them that he was the true vine and that everyone who wanted to be part of God's way had to become a branch on Jesus' vine. Jesus had also taught them that they would know those who followed him by the fruit that they showed with their actions.

Philip looked up and he saw an Ethiopian official in a chariot down the road. This official had come to Jerusalem to worship and was now returning home. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go on over to the chariot and join the man in it."

Running over to the chariot, Philip, heard the man reading from a scroll of one God's prophets, Isaiah. He asked the Ethiopian official, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The official looked at Philip and said, "How can I when I have no one to tell me what it means? Please come up here and help me to understand what the prophet is saying."

Philip told him that the prophet was talking about Jesus and how Jesus had to live, die and rise again. As they went along the road the chariot came up to a place with water and the Ethiopian official said to Philip, "Look there is water. Please baptize me now, so that I may become a follower of Jesus."

(Bring over the bowl of water)

The two of them got down from the chariot and Philip baptized the Ethiopian official.

(Have the children put their fingers in the water and touch their own foreheads with it)

As Philip was baptizing the official he again remembered how Jesus spoke about being the true vine and how new branches had to be put on that true vine. Philip realized that was what he was doing by baptizing the Ethiopian.

(Pass out the grapes if you have them to the children for a small snack)

When they came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit immediately came and took Philip to another place and the Ethiopian official went on to his home rejoicing in God and in God's love through Jesus.

Response

Project Idea 1: Baptism Picture

Baptism is a key sacrament for all Christians and this story gives us an opportunity to share the children's learnings about this with others.

Materials needed

- light coloured construction paper
- white or very light coloured crayons
- blue tempera paint
- water
- paint brushes
- containers for paint and water
- newspaper

Instructions

Lay out newspaper over the work area. Give each child a piece of construction paper and the white or light coloured crayons. Ask the children to draw a picture of the baptism of the Ethiopian official on their construction paper. Explain that they are not to worry if they are having a hard time seeing their picture as they draw it on. Suggest that they press as hard as they can with their crayons. Once they are done drawing put away the crayons and give each child a paint brush and put out the blue paint and the water in their containers. Invite the children to wet their paint brushes and put some blue paint on them. Show them how to brush their paint lightly across their pictures. As they do so point out to them how the pictures are becoming more visible. Invite the children to share their pictures with their families so that they can share the story with them.

Project Idea 2: Vine, Branches and Fruit Poster

This response will give the children a chance to share with others how they are all connected to Jesus through their Baptisms.

Materials needed

- vine and branches image at end of lesson
- poster board
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- glitter

Instructions

Make copies of the vine & branches image at the end of the lesson so that each child has two. On the poster board draw a long vine that criss-crosses the paper with a dark marker. Print across the top '**Jesus is the vine and we are the branches**'. Give each child the two copies of the vine and branches image. Have them cut them out and then colour them with the markers. When they are done have them print their own name on one and print the name of someone else in the congregation on the other. Help the children to glue their images on the vine that was drawn on the poster board. If you have time you might want to surround each vine and branch image with glue and then sprinkle the glitter on the glue. With the children find a place to put up their poster so that others in the congregation can see it.

Project Idea 3: Easter Egg Poster – Vine and Branches

This is a continuation of a project started in the previous weeks and will be ongoing until the end of the Easter season.

Materials needed

- posters that the children started in previous weeks
- vine and branches image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks
- green, purple and blue tissue paper

Instructions

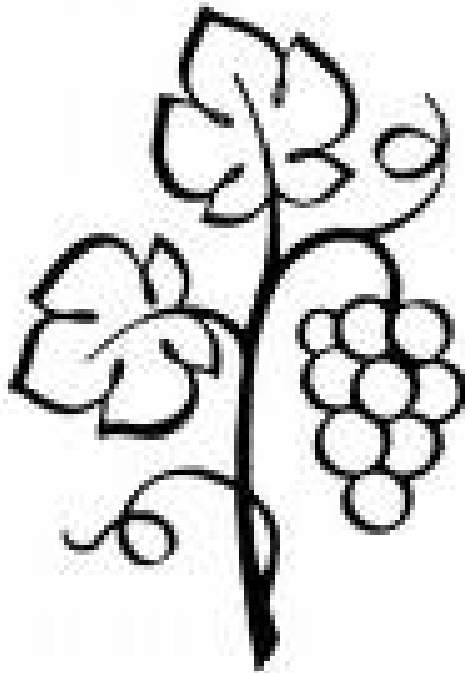
Make enough copies of the vine & branches image at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Give each child their own poster. Have them cut out the vine & branches. Get them to glue onto the centre left of the poster. Show them how to scrunch up small pieces of green tissue paper and glue onto the leaves and do the same with the purple and blue tissue paper for the grapes. As they are gluing on the tissue paper talk with the children about how Jesus calls us to all be together on God's vine just as the Ethiopian official knew he had to become part of the vine as well.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles.
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for loving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.
Amen.

Easter Egg Poster – Vine and Branches



For Project idea 2, use large image

**For Project idea 3 on a large sheet of paper,
use large image**

**For Project idea 3 on 8.5" × 11" or A4 paper,
use small image**



Egg Poster – Guideline

