

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER  
EASTER  
JOHN 15:1-8**

We have work to do, but not as lone rangers. We are called to stay connected to the vine, faithfully and courageously reaching out, securely connected to the vine of life. We will probably experience some very painful pruning. Later, often much later, we will experience the fruit. Abiding in that vine, trusting in it, and accepting its confines, we will learn to want the appropriate things and be free to ask for them. The work we are given to do, we will be able to do joyfully to the glory of God

# I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

## The Story

Jesus knew that He was about to leave the disciples, and he takes this time to prepare them “for their mission in the period of his absence between his resurrection and return.”<sup>1</sup> It is clear from John’s gospel and the chapters of this discourse that Jesus prioritized both preparing and encouraging his followers. He wanted to inform them of how to remain in connection with Him, encourage them to not fall away, and tell them to continue in the love he had shown.

## Reflection Questions:

Let’s see if we can figure out where we are in this passage.

1. If Jesus were here, telling us this story, who would we understand is “the vine?”
2. Who are the branches?
3. Who might some other branches be?
4. What other branches are on the Jesus vine?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Compose a journal entry to describe where you see yourself as a branch.
2. Create your own vine (directions attached)
3. Try out any of the activities included in the children’s worship bulletin.