The Vine and the Branches  
(Middle and Upper Elementary)

May 2, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Overview

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. Just like the branches of a vine, we must remain in Jesus in order to bear fruit, for, as He tells us, we can do nothing without Him. But how do we remain in Jesus? The simplest answer is through a life of prayer. In this lesson, students will contemplate how to strengthen their own prayer life.

Directions

A. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own, or you may discuss them together as a class.

B. Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.

C. Have students complete the Remain in Jesus activity by reading the excerpt about prayer from Fr. Jacques Philippe and the answer the reflection questions.

D. When finished, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. He is the true vine and His Father is the vine grower. The Father takes away every branch that does no bear fruit and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

2. We cannot bear fruit on our own unless we remain in Him, just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine.

3. That we will bear much fruit, and that whatever we ask of Him will done for us.

4. They will be thrown out like a branch and wither, and be thrown into a fire and burned.

5. The Father.