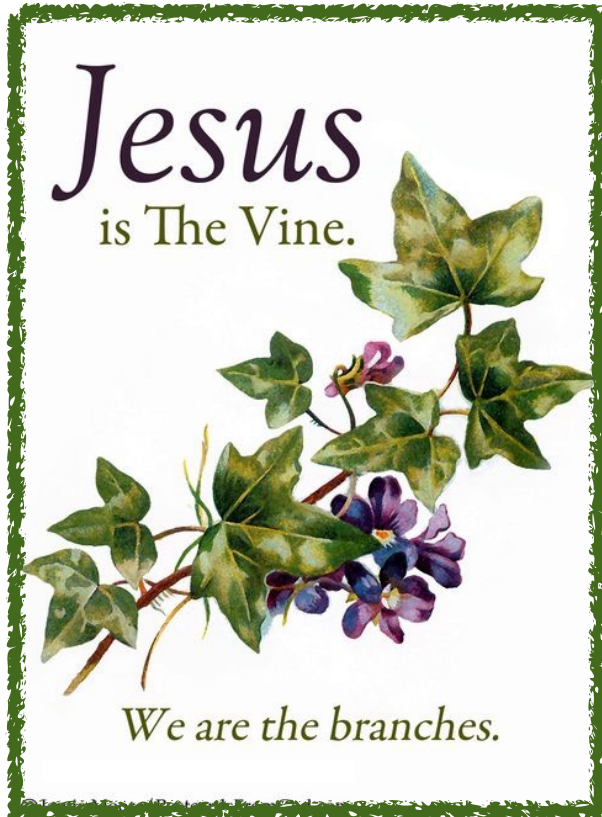


Building Faith in the Family



John 15:1-8

Before He died and rose again, Jesus reminded His disciples of what it meant to be His followers. To help them understand, Jesus used the picture of a vine and its branches:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

What did Jesus mean? How are we "branches" of Jesus' vine?

How does Jesus help us "bear fruit"? What kind of fruit?

Dear Jesus,

You are Lord of everything that lives and grows.

We are like branches that grow

from the vine of Your power and love.

Hold us tight, keep us close to You,

and fill us with Your Spirit

so that we will show Your love in all we say,

all we wish, and all we do.

In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Grow your own vine as a reminder of Jesus' promise.

We've reached May at last, and May *should* be warm enough to do some planting. But just to be safe, this project begins indoors. You'll need a narrow sweet potato, round toothpicks, a clear jar or glass, and a sunny window. To sprout a sweet potato and start the vines, submerge the bottom of the potato in water. Insert 3 or 4 toothpicks into the potato to anchor it on the jar's rim. In a few weeks, the sprouts should be well underway. Then you can clip off the sprouts with their roots and plant them inside or outside in a garden. As you watch new shoots and branches grow from the vines, remember the Vine that is helping *you* grow and blossom.

These YouTube videos have instructions and helpful tips on growing your vines.

- 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXSSXP2Pt0>
"Easiest Way to Grow Lots of Sweet Potato Slips"
- 2) <https://www.thespruce.com/sweet-potato-vines-4120149>
"How to Grow Sweet Potato Vine from a Tuber in Water Container at Home (Indoors)"

