



**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**



Week 5
2 - 8 May 2021

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B – Easter to Pentecost – 4 April to 29 May

- Week 5:** Sunday 2 May - The vine and the branches
- Week 6: Sunday 9 May – Love each other
- May 13 – ASCENSION DAY
- Week 7: Sunday 16 May – Jesus prays for His disciples.
- Week 8: Sunday 23 May – PENTECOST – The work of the Holy Spirit
- Week 9: Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday – Jesus teaches Nicodemus



WEEK 5: 2 MAY
The vine and the branches

DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021	*Acts 8:26-40	Psalms 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8



The vine and the branches

15 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.⁵ 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

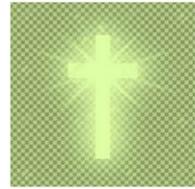
WORSHIP

<https://youtu.be/tZIMDcgrF-Q> I need the every hour by Fernando Ortega

FOR REFLECTION:

DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTIONS AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY TONY MATHEE

There are really many, many meaningful truths and lessons that we can learn from this reading. What follows are just a few poignant thoughts.



In our lives we can do many meaningless and self-fulfilling activities. However, the problem arises when we think we can successfully perform spiritual endeavours on our own, thinking that the Church can greatly benefit from our vast experience and expertise. Jesus says, "Without me you can do nothing". If we truly want to do something worthwhile for the Kingdom of God, we, as the branches need to be joined to the vine which is Jesus. And how do we abide in the vine? By prayer and regularly reading His Word the Bible. Get your sustenance from Jesus and the Holy Spirit within you.

But what is the fruit that the branches produce? An interesting thought that occurred to me was that the fruit in no way benefits the branch. Others inside and outside the Church benefit from the fruit. Fruit is often thought of as soul winning, but it is much, much more. All the 9 fruit of the Spirit and the many gifts of the Holy Spirit can greatly benefit others and can be regarded as fruit.

Did you know that without pruning, the vine produces less and less fruit? The unpruned vine will use all its energy to increase its size and foliage. Do you sometimes feel that in your life you are doing more and more and achieving less and less? Is this not food for thought for the willing but over committed servant of the Lord? Pruning a vine is severe. To produce really good grapes a vine is pruned between 85% to 90%. It is a very challenging thought that so much more could be achieved in a Church if many more volunteers came forward and they used the few Spiritual gifts given to them well!!!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Look at the 9 fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5: 22) and discuss how each one could benefit others.
2. In what way is my life producing fruit that could benefit the Church directly or indirectly?
3. How does prayer and Bible reading enable me to practically be connected to Jesus?
4. How do think the Gardener (God) would do the work of pruning in a person?
5. "Isn't it a bit harsh for God to cut off branches that don't bear fruit?" Discuss.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 2nd May

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [John 15:1-8](#)

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment:

This scripture is all about staying connect to God.

Ask each other what ways we can connect with God?

Ask what ways do we connect with each other?

Ask if there are other ways that your family wants to be connected to each other. (e.g. family movie nights, eating supper together, go on a family hike, play video games with your children, have dance parties etc.)

Activity: 3-legged race: Pair up and stand next to each other. Tie the inside legs together with a stocking (or something that has given). Race up and down an open area. You can swap partners. If you family is an odd number have a 5-legged race where 3 people team up!

The reason for this activity is to show that to stay connect and achieve your goal you need to work together with others, you also have to put in the effort to stay connected to God

START YOUR DAY WITH
Devotionals Daily

Monday, May 3, 2021: [Psalm 80](#); [Isaiah 5:1-7](#); [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

Memory verse: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Gal. 5: 22-23

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to displace the “Ego” in me and replace it with your Holy Spirit that my thoughts will become Your thoughts and my ways will become Your ways.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021: [Psalm 80](#); [Isaiah 32:9-20](#); [James 3:17-18](#)

Memory verse: “Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine.” Ps80:14

Prayer: O Lord, our thoughts are not hidden from You. You know our desire to remain connected with Jesus. Please help us to achieve our objective.

Wednesday, May 5, 2021: [Psalm 80](#); [Isaiah 65:17-25](#); [John 14:18-31](#)

Memory verse: “Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’” John 14: 23

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for Your great love for me. To show my love for You I shall devote time and effort to know all Your teachings that I may obey them.

Thursday, May 6, 2021: [Psalm 98](#); [Isaiah 49:5-6](#); [Acts 10:1-34](#)

Memory verse: “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” Isa. 49: 6

Prayer: Gracious God, so fill me with Your Holy Spirit that my life may be a light and a witness, leading others to find Your salvation

Friday, May 7, 2021: [Psalm 98](#); [Isaiah 42:5-9](#); [Acts 10:34-43](#)

Memory verse: “All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.” Acts 10: 43

Prayer: O Lord, we live in a world that embraces sin. We are also tainted with sin and need Your forgiveness. Through our belief in You and Your sacrificial death on the cross please forgive us our sins and make us fruitful for You.

Saturday, May 8, 2021: [Psalm 98](#); [Deuteronomy 32:44-47](#); [Mark 10:42-45](#)

Memory verse: “The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.” Ps. 98: 2

Prayer: Almighty God, I thank you that You have made salvation known and available to me through Your Son Jesus Christ. With a heart full of gratitude, I offer my life to You for You to use me in Your service.