

All Age Worship Service

(AAW016)

**“I am the Vine; you
are the branches”**

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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“I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES”

Service Aim:

To unpack what Jesus meant when He said: *“I am the vine; you are the branches.”*

Biblical Reference(s):

John 15:1, 5-8, Isaiah 5:7, John 1:4, Galatians 5:22-23, Romans 8:29

Outline of Service:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Welcome: | Introduce the theme |
| Opening Prayer: | |
| Opening songs: | <u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Warm up: | “Grape tasting” and where the grapes have come from |
| Reading 1: | John 15:5-8 dramatized |
| Link: | Jesus is The Vine and we are the branches. |
| Memory verse: | John 15:5 using pictures of a bunch of grapes |
| Song: | <u>A song about Jesus being the source of life</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Link: | What is the good fruit that God wants us to bear in our lives? |
| Reading 2: | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| Quiz: | Unpacking the fruit of the Spirit |
| Talk 1: | If we are to bear good fruit, we need to stay connected to Jesus |
| Confession: | Confession of where we have produced bad fruit |
| Song: | <u>A song of worship</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Memory verse: | John 15:5 using pictures of a bunch of grapes |
| Link: | So how do we stay connected to Jesus? One way is through prayer |
| Film: | “Prayer” |
| Talk 2: | Stay connected through prayer, Bible reading etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we stay connected to Jesus we will bear fruit to our Father’s glory |
| Response: | Recommit to staying connected to Jesus |
| Songs: | <u>Song/s about staying close to follow Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Memory Verse: | John 15:5 from memory |
| Prayers: | Using responses |
| Lord’s Prayer: | |
| Summary: | Summarize the main teaching points of the service. |
| Final song: | <u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Blessing: | |
| Takeaway: | “Fruit of the Spirit” prayer |

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the seventh of Jesus' seven "I am" statements that are recorded in John's Gospel; "I am the vine and you are the branches."

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer or
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together.
- Alternatively you could a prayer like:

Lord thank you that you are here with us.

Make us aware of your presence as we worship You.

Speak to us that we might know You better.

Fill us again with Your Holy Spirit that we would live for Your glory.

Amen,

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm up:

You will need a bunch of green seedless grapes in a bowl and a bunch of red seedless grapes in a bowl. You will also need some green and red seedless grapes that you have allowed to go rotten and mouldy, in a bowl. Cover the bowls with foil until you are ready to use them. It would be helpful to PowerPoint a picture of a grape vine. (See Appendix 2)

Does anyone here like fruit?

- What is your favourite fruit? *(Receive answers)*

Who would like to be a fruit taster this morning? *(Bring forward 2 children / people)*

- I have three bowls of grapes here for you to taste and I would like you to tell me which grapes taste the best.
- Let's begin with the green grapes. *(Uncover the green grapes and let your tasters take a grape each and eat it)*
- Do they taste good?

Now let's try the red grapes. *(Uncover the red grapes and let your tasters take a grape each and eat it)*

- Do they taste good?

Now let's try these other grapes. *(Uncover the rotten grapes and see the reaction of the tasters)*

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
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Don't you want to taste these grapes?

- Why not?
- I don't blame you.....no-one wants to eat bad fruit do they?
- This fruit wouldn't be a blessing to us would it?

So tasters, in your professional opinion, which grapes taste the best? *(Receive answers)*

- They are delicious aren't they?
- This good fruit is a blessing to our bodies.
- Thank you for your help.....please sit down.

I wonder if any children know where grapes originally come from. *(Receive answers)*

- That's right; they grow on a grapevine a bit like this. *(Project a picture of a grapevine)*
- The grapevine sends out branches and the grapes, which grow in clusters, hang down from the branches.

The grapevine was a very familiar sight in Jesus' day.

- Jesus used the grapevine to teach us some very important things.
- Listen to this Bible reading.

Reading 1:

The reading is John 15:5-8 and could be dramatized – see Appendix 3. The rope² that you need for the dramatized reading will also be needed later on the service for the Response. Ensure that you buy a long enough piece of rope. (see Response section)

If you don't wish to dramatize the reading it could be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

Link:

The first thing to say about the grapevine is that it was originally used as a symbol of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament.

- Israel, like a grapevine, was meant to be fruitful...bearing good fruit to bless others
- Israel was meant to show the world around them how good it was to live in relationship with God.....

But Israel failed to do this.

- At many points in their history they chose to turn away from relationship with God to worship idols made from wood and metal instead.
- At other times they kept God's blessings strictly to themselves, refusing to share them.

So Jesus came.....leaving heaven to come to earth two thousand years ago.

Jesus told His followers that He was the true vine (John 15:1)...*(Go and point to the rope)*

- He was the source of life for people.....everlasting life.... (John 1:4)
- and they, His followers were the branches.....*(Go and point to the 2 people holding the green thread and the grapes)*
- called to bear good fruit to His Father's glory. *(Point to the grapes)*

² You can purchase a piece of rope from ebay at www.ebay.co.uk
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When we choose to follow Jesus, we too are drawn into a life-giving relationship with Him.(Point to the 2 people holding the green thread and the grapes)

- We are like branches that Jesus calls to bear good fruit.....(Point to the grapes)
- not fruit like green, red or black grapes,
- but the good fruit of living lives that honour Him....which we will discover a bit more about later. (Send the dramatized reading actors away as you move into the memory verse.)

Memory Verse:

The memory verse is John 15:5. You could present the memory verse using large (A4/A3 size) pieces of white paper/card on which are photocopied a bunch of grapes (picture in Appendix 4) and the words of the memory verse as shown below:

- Bunch of grapes 1: "I am the vine;
- Bunch of grapes 2: you are the branches.
- Bunch of grapes 3: If you remain in me
- Bunch of grapes 4: and I in you,
- Bunch of grapes 5: you will bear much fruit;
- Bunch of grapes 6: apart from me you can do
- Bunch of grapes 7: nothing."
- Bunch of grapes 8: John chapter 15, verse 5

Song:

A song about Jesus being the source of life as per Appendix 1

Link:

We have said that Jesus calls us to bear good fruit,

- the fruit of living lives that honour Him.

But what exactly does that mean?

- What is the good fruit that God wants to see in our lives?
- Listen to this:

Reading 2:

The reading is Galatians 5:22-23 and could be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

Quiz:

You will need 9 pieces of A4/A3 white paper or card. On one side of each of the pieces of card photocopy a picture of grapes (see Appendix 4). On the other side of the card print in very small font the explanation of the fruit of the Spirit (as in Appendix 5) followed by the word describing the fruit of the spirit (in the largest font possible).

It would be helpful to PowerPoint all the nine fruit of the Spirit on a slide that can be seen during the quiz.

Invite 9 different people to come and stand at the front. Give each person one of your cards and invite them to read out their "fruit description" one at a time, asking the congregation to guess which fruit of the Spirit has been described. Once the fruit has been guessed, move on to the next card.

You could begin the quiz by saying something like:

In our reading we have just heard about nine different character qualities that St Paul calls “fruit of the Spirit.”

- This lovely fruit grows in our lives when we follow Jesus.

I need 9 people to come and help me now. *(Give to each person a “fruit description” to read out)*

- Each person here is going to read out a description of a fruit of the Spirit.
- You need to guess which fruit they are talking about.
- Let’s have our 1st description *(Fruit of the Spirit description is read out as per Appendix 5)*

Which fruit of the Spirit has just been described? *(Receive answers)*

- That’s right.....it is LOVE *(Hand card with the picture of the grapes and the word “LOVE” to the reader to hold up)*
- Let’s move on to the next one. *(Continue until all 9 fruit of the Spirit have been described and guessed)*

I wonder which fruit of the Spirit you need God to grow more fully in your life.

- Thank you everyoneplease sit down.

Talk 1:

It would be helpful to project a picture of a grape vine (see Appendix 2) and a dead branch at the relevant points.

God wants to grow good fruit in our lives,

- because His purpose for our lives is to make us more and more like Jesus (Romans 8:29)

When we think about the fruit of the Spirit, we see all of it in Jesus’ character don’t we?

- Jesus is love, pure love.
- He is full of joy, peace and patience.
- Jesus is kind, good and faithful.
- He is full of gentleness and self-control.

If we are to become like Jesus and bear this good fruit of the Spirit,

- Jesus says that we need to **stay connected** to Him.
- That makes sense doesn’t it?

On a grapevine, the branch that is connected to the vine bears fruit because it is connected to the source of life, *(Show the picture of the vine in Appendix 2)*

- and so it will get all the water and the nutrients that it needs.
- In due course fruit will appear naturally.

It is the same with us.

- When we are connected to Jesus, the source of life, the Holy Spirit will fill our lives and in due course good fruit will appear naturally,
- without us needing to struggle and strive.

However, Jesus also talked about branches that didn't stay connected to the vine.

- He said that these branches would bear no fruit.
- That also makes sense doesn't it? (*Project a picture of a dead branch*)

A branch separated from the source of life cannot produce good fruit, no matter how hard it tries to.

- On our own, without being connected to Jesus, we cannot be consistently patient and kind, at peace and full of joy.
- We need the powerful Holy Spirit within us if we are going to bear good fruit.

So can I encourage you today to **stay connected** to Jesus,

- and you will then bear good fruit that will bring Him glory.

Confession:

Lead into a Confession prayer. This could be:

- an informal Confession prayer led by the service leader or
- a Confession prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship" that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer:

Earlier in the service when our grape tasters tasted the different grapes, they didn't want to taste the rotten grapes,

- because they knew that they would be bad for them.

When we sin and do the things that God doesn't want us to do, it is like we are bearing rotten fruit that it bad for us and for those around us.

- Let's turn to Father God and ask Him to forgive us now.

Father God,

Please forgive us when we have chosen:

to hate instead of loving others,

to grumble instead of giving thanks,

to be irritable instead of showing patience,

to be unkind instead of showing kindness,

to be drawn to bad things instead of doing good,

to be unfaithful instead of being faithful,

to be rough instead of being gentle and

to be greedy and selfish instead of showing self-control.

We turn away from these wrong attitudes and ask that You help us to stay connected to Jesus.

Please fill us again with Your peace. Amen.

Follow this with a prayer of Absolution.

Song:

A song of worship as per Appendix 1

Memory verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 15:5 a couple of times using pictures of a bunch of grapes

Link:

We have said that if we are going to bear the good fruit of the Holy Spirit then we need to **stay connected** to Jesus, so how do we do that?

The answer is very simple. **Spend time with Him.**

- In all of our relationships be it with members of our family, or friends or neighbours,
- we need to give them time don't we, so that we can get to know them?

Nowadays there are lots of ways of staying connected with people aren't there?

- We may speak with them face to face,
- or chat with them on the telephone.
- We might send them a message or a text or an email or social media.

One of the gifts that we have been given to be able to **stay connected** to Jesus is the gift of Prayer.

- Watch this:

Film:

You may choose to show a simple animated film about prayer at this point in the service. There are a couple on YouTube³ that would be suitable. The 1st film is called "Prayer" (1.46 minutes long) and you can find it by putting the words, "kore roots prayer" into the search bar. The 2nd film is called "Prayer – What is Prayer?" (2.30 minutes long) and you can find it by putting the words, "what is prayer" into the search bar.

Talk 2:

So can I encourage you to **stay connected to Jesus**. Spend time with Him.

- If you don't already have a special time when you spend time with Him, think about what would work for you.

And as well as making a special time to give your full attention to Jesus,

- try and find ways each day to stop for a moment and be aware of His presence with you.

You might put on a worship CD as you make a journey in the car,

- or put a reminder on your phone to stop and pray for a few minutes at midday.
- You might bring to mind three things that you want to thank God for as you walk to school or to work,
- or ask Jesus to clothe you with His love as you get dressed in the morning.

The important thing is that you **stay connected to Jesus**.

And of course we don't simply talk to Jesus we also need to listen to what He says as well so that we get to know Him better.

- One of the best ways of doing that is through reading our Bibles each day.
- If you don't already have a Bible, do go and buy one or download one onto your phone.
- It is the most important book that you will ever read in your life!

³ www.youtube.com
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If you and I **stay connected to Jesus**, we will bear the good fruit of the Holy Spirit that we have heard about today.

Response:

For the response you will need a long piece of rope (see details under “Reading 1”). The rope needs to be long enough that it can be stretched out down the centre aisle of your church. You will also need a 0.5m length of green 2mm satin cord thread⁴ for each member of the congregation. You could say something like.

Some of you here today will already know Jesus well and spend time with Him each day.

- Others of you will have known Jesus well in the past but have drifted away from Him.
- Others of you will not really know Jesus at all.....and feel completely disconnected from Him.

This rope (*Show the rope*), which we are going to stretch down the church now (*have 2 people holding either end*)

- is to remind us of Jesus, the Vine.

We are going to pass around some pieces of green thread now and I would like you to take one piece each. (*Pass around pieces of green thread so that every person has one each*)

- The piece of thread that you have been given reminds us that Jesus chooses each one of us to know Him and to follow Him.....
- To be like a branch.

As we sing our next song together, can I encourage you to come and tie your piece of green thread onto the rope as a way of you saying to Jesus:

- I want to know You better.....
- I want to be connected to You Jesus....
- I want to bear good fruit in my life.

Once you have tied your thread onto the rope, go back to your place.

Songs:

Song/s about staying close to Jesus as per Appendix 1

Memory verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 15:5 a couple of times from memory.

Prayers:

As this is quite a long service you may simply wish to say the Lord’s Prayer together or pray very simply, something like:

- 1) Praying that we, Jesus’ followers will stay connected to Him with the response:
Jesus You are the vine. Help us stay connected to you.

⁴ You can purchase the light green thread from ebay at www.ebay.co.uk by putting “100yd/92 Metre Roll 2MM Rattail Satin Cord Thread” into the search bar.

2) Praying for Jesus' followers who are sick or going through other hard times with the response:

Jesus You are the vine. **Help them stay connected to you.**

3) Praying for people who don't yet know Jesus with the response:

Jesus You are the vine. **Help them to become connected to you.**

End with the Lord's Prayer

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

Jesus said that He is The Vine, in other words our source of life.

- Followers of Jesus are like the branches on a vine that are called to bear good fruit.
- The good fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- If we are going to bear good fruit we need to stay connected to Jesus, for without Him we can do nothing.
- We stay connected to Jesus through prayer and Bible reading amongst other things.

Final Song:

Lead into the final songs as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Jesus, You are The Vine and we are the branches.

Help us to stay connected to you each day.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Takeaway:

At the end of the service you could give people the "Fruit of the Spirit" prayer to take away with them. This can be found in Appendix 6

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

- i) A couple of opening songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:
- Come, now is the time to worship (Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs)
 - Everyone's coming to praise (Nick & Becky Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
 - Holy Spirit we welcome you (Chris Bowater © 1986 Sovereign Lifestyle Music Ltd)
 - Praise is rising (Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown © 2005 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
 - Your love is amazing (Brenton Brown & Brian Doerksen © 2000 Vineyard Songs)
- ii) A Song about Jesus being the source of life. Ideas include:
- Be the centre of my life (Alan Price © 1990 Daybreak Music Ltd)
 - Jesus be the centre (Michael Frye © 1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
 - Come on and celebrate (Patricia Morgan & Dave Bankhead © 1984 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
 - Who O Lord could save themselves (Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin © 2009 Thankyou Music)
- iii) A song/s of worship. Ideas include:
- Be still for the presence of the Lord (David Evans © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
 - I can be what God wants me to be (Alan Price © 1996 Daybreak Music Ltd)
 - I want more of you (Chris Jackson © 2009 POWERPACK)
 - May the fragrance of Jesus fill this place (Graham Kendrick © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
 - More love, more power (Jude del Hierro © 1987 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
 - The fruit of the Spirit (Chris Jackson © 2000 POWERPACK)
- iv) Song/s about staying close to Jesus. Ideas include:
- Breathe on me Spirit of Jesus (Tina Pownall © 1987 Sovereign Music UK)
 - Draw me close, never let me go (Simon Goodall © 2005 Thankyou Music)
 - God is here, God is present (Ian Smale © 1988 Thankyou Music)
 - I am the vine (Danny Daniels & Randy Rigby © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard publishing)
 - Lord I come to you (Geoff Bullock © 1992 Word Music)
 - This is the air I breathe (Marie Barnett © 1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
 - To be in your presence (Noel Richards © 1991 Thankyou Music)
 - Your grace is enough (Reuben Morgan © 2008 Reuben Morgan / Hillsong Publishing)
- v) Final song. Ideas include:
- All I once held dear (Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music)
 - In Christ alone (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music)
 - Jesus my King my wonderful Saviour (J.M.Harris Adpt.Andy Bromley ©2005 Thankyou Music)
 - My heart is filled with thankfulness (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2003 Thankyou Music)
 - Oh Lord send us out (Sally Wolf © 2001 Sally Wolf)
 - We are heirs of God (Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – Picture for “Warm-up”

A Grapevine



Appendix 3 – Dramatized Reading - John 15:5-8

Cast: Narrator (Jesus), Father God, 2 people who are fruitful branches, 2 people who are unfruitful branches, 2 people to hold either end of the rope.

Props: A long piece of rope⁵ (eg 4m) and 2 bunches of grapes.

Staging: The dramatized reading is a narrated mime so there are no words to learn. The narrator reads the words of John 15:5-8 and waits as the various mimes take place. If possible, the 4 people acting as branches wear a green t-shirt or green tabard, but this isn't essential. The grapes for 2 of the 4 people need to be within easy reach to pick up at the appropriate place.

.....
(Enter Narrator who stands to one side at the front of the church)

Narrator: Jesus said: I am the vine.

(Enter two people carrying a length of rope. They unravel the rope across the front of the church. Then one person sits down holding the rope near the floor, whilst the other person holds the rope up high.

You are the branches.

(Enter four people dressed in green tops. The four people spread themselves along either side of the length of rope and hold onto it with one hand.)

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit

(Two of the four people receive a bunch of grapes and hold them in their free hand)

Apart from me you can do nothing.

(The other two people let go of the rope and so have both hands free)

If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers.

(The two people who have let go of the rope shrink down to the floor)

Such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

(Enter Father God, who "picks up" the two people who have shrunk to the floor and moves them away from the vine. They lie down still. Exit Father God)

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

(Everyone stays where they are until the end of the short talk that follows this dramatized reading)

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™
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⁵ You can purchase a piece of rope from ebay at www.ebay.co.uk
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Appendix 4 – Picture for memory verse

A bunch of grapes:



Appendix 5 – “Fruit of the Spirit Quiz”

Reader 1: I am willing to sacrificially give all that I have and all that I am to you, so that you are blessed. I am.....?

(Answer: LOVE)

Reader 2: I will **not** say whatever comes into my head but will be careful what words I speak to you. When I have a bag of sweets or a packet of biscuits I won't eat them all at once but will share them with you. When I am cross with you I won't punch you or swear at you. I am.....?

(Answer: SELF-CONTROL)

Reader 3: I know that your feelings are tender so I won't be rough when I speak to you. I won't push you around or intimidate you but will treat you with respect. I am.....?

(Answer: GENTLENESS)

Reader 4: I am happy inside even when I go through difficult times because I know that I am loved and that Jesus is with me every step of the way. I am.....?

(Answer: JOY)

Reader 5: I am willing to wait for things to happen in God's perfect time because I trust Him. I don't complain and grumble as I wait. I am.....?

(Answer: PATIENCE)

Reader 6: I will keep my promises to you even when it is really hard to do so. I will be a loyal friend to you even if you get sick or have other problems. I won't join in with people who say horrible things about you behind your back, but will stand up for you. I am.....?

(Answer: FAITHFULNESS)

Reader 7: I will find ways to make your life better. I might help you with a job that needs doing. I might write you an encouraging letter or comfort you when you are sad or tell you about the love of Jesus. I am.....?

(Answer: KINDNESS)

Reader 8: I feel calm inside because I know that because of Jesus all of my sins have been forgiven. I know that I am a loved child of God. Even when difficult things happen in my life, I still have this calm inside me. I am.....?

(Answer: PEACE)

Reader 9: I try to do the things that will please my heavenly Father like serving other people, visiting the sick and giving some of what I have to those who are poor. I choose to be honest and not to lie. I keep away from people doing bad things as I don't want to join in. I am.....?

(Answer: GOODNESS)

Appendix 6 – “Fruit of the Spirit” Prayer

Fruit of the Spirit Prayer

Love:

Father please grow in me a deep love for You and a selfless love for my family and for those I meet each day.

Joy:

Father please grow in me a joyful spirit so that I can rejoice and give praise at all times.

Peace:

Father please fill me with Your perfect peace that passes understanding and which guards my heart and mind. Grow in me the ability to trust You rather than to worry and fret.

Patience:

Father please grow in me the grace to be patient and to wait on You. Help me to endure hardships calmly and without complaining.

Kindness:

Father please grow in me a generous and compassionate attitude that is always looking to help others.

Goodness:

Father please grow in me integrity and uprightness that I might glorify You.

Faithfulness:

Father please grow in me the grace to be faithful to You and not to doubt Your love and turn away. Please also grow in me the grace to be faithful in all my other relationships.

Gentleness:

Father please grow in me a gentle and gracious attitude toward others.

Self-control:

Father please grow in me self-control and discipline. Help me not to be indulgent in any area of my life.