



*Nurturing Faith . . .
Every Day in Every Way*

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:18

Hello friends! Have y'all ever been through a great big wind storm? Those can be scary, can't they? After the storm, there's usually some clean-up to do, like picking up branches in the yard that have fallen off of the trees. I have a question for y'all. Do you think those branches will ever grow leaves again or produce any fruit? No? Why not? (because they are no longer connected to the tree).

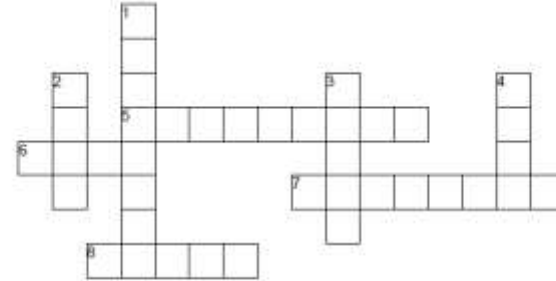
In our Gospel lesson from John, we hear Jesus talk about how a branch is supposed to grow and bear fruit for the vine or tree to which it belongs. But, for that branch to grow and bear fruit, it must remain attached to the vine or tree. If the branch was removed from or fell off of the tree, what would happen? The branch wouldn't be able to receive water and food from the tree and the branch would wither and die. And if the branch was separated from the tree and died, what else wouldn't it be able to do? (It wouldn't be able to grow or bear fruit or leaves).

One of the reasons Jesus is talking about trees, branches, and fruit is because Jesus wants us to think about how we are like branches and that he is like a tree. If we stay connected to Jesus, then like branches on a tree, we are better able to receive (and then share) the fruit of God's love, healing, and forgiveness.

Prayer: Loving God, Thank you for Jesus who invites us to connect with him and receive your gifts so that we can share them with others. Amen.

*adapted from RFour.org

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 5. Those who follow Jesus
- 6. The opposite of false
- 7. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 8. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten

DOWN

- 1. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 2. Burning flame
- 3. Praise or honor
- 4. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

GARDENER	FRUIT	FIRE	DISCIPLES
VINE	TRUE	GLORY	BRANCHES

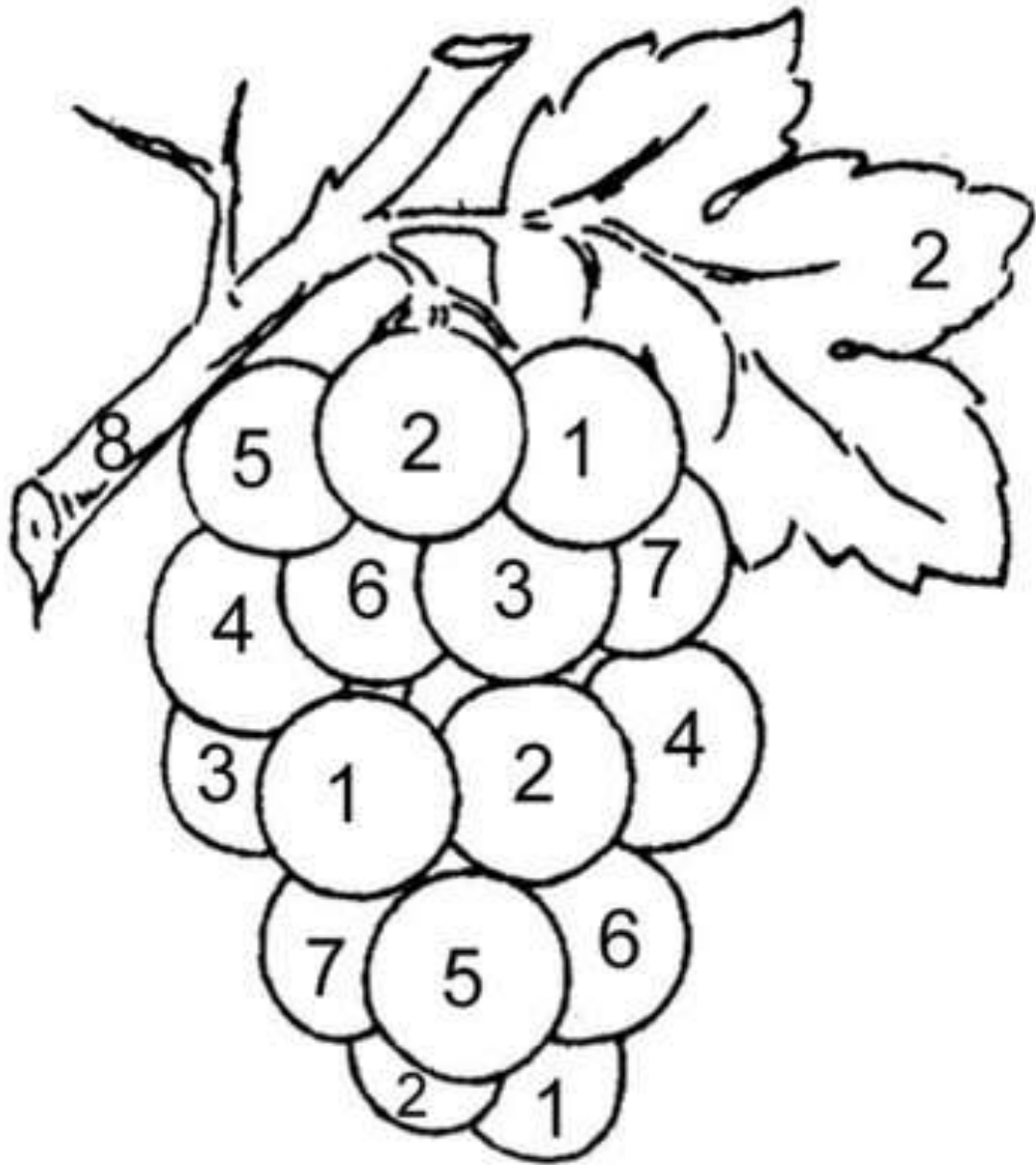
Activity: This week, help organize a neighborhood clean-up. Help neighbors spruce up their yard, clearing them of broken branches and planting some flowers. What a great way to show love to our neighbors!

Discussion Question: Have you ever felt like you were disconnected from Jesus? Did you know that even if we turn away from God, God, through Jesus is always right there in the form of our Church family? You are always loved, just as you are!

Table prayer for May: God, help my light to shine as bright as the noonday sun. To walk in your ways, to bring others hope, and share your love with everyone. Amen.

Memory verse for May: Proverbs 4:23- Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Color by number grapes.



1- purple 2- green 3- yellow
4- red 5- blue 6- orange 7- pink
8- brown