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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 3, 2015

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year B

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

[**Summary:** *Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.*]

Supplies Needed: You will need a piece of wood that is obviously wood AND 100% dead (e.g., a 2x4, yard stick, broom handle, etc)

ASK (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- [*hold up the piece of wood*] Look at what I found! Can you guess what I'm going to do with it? (listen to a few answers)
- Those are some good ideas, but here's what I'm planning to do with it: I'm going to PLANT IT in the ground so that it will grow into a tree!
- [*Note -- hopefully one of the braver kids tells you at this point that you don't know what you're talking about. If they do interrupt you, skip the next line. If they don't, say the next line*]
- But I'm confused and need your help -- I can't figure out where the seeds are on this thing? Where will the roots come from? [*pause for answers, and encourage them to think about why your plan won't work*]
- So let me get this straight -- you're telling me that this piece of wood can't ever grow into a tree no matter what end I plant in the ground?
- And why is that? (because it's dead and doesn't have any seeds that can grow into a tree)

TELL (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- I'm glad that you are so smart about trees and branches because this is the very thing that Jesus is talking about in today's scripture story.

- Jesus is talking in today's story about how a branch needs to be part of a vine (or a tree) to live.
- And a branch, as you know, has to be attached to the tree because the tree has food and water to send to the branch that the branch can't get for itself.
- The branch then uses that food and water to make leaves and seeds.
- But what would the branch be able to do [*hold up the piece of wood*] if the branch wasn't connected to the tree?
- Not very much, right?

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- So what Jesus is saying is that *we* are like the branches and that *he* is like the tree.
- And, Jesus is reminding us that we can make the choice to be connected to him or not be connected to him.
- If we choose to not be connected to him, just like this stick is not connected to a tree, then it will be much, much harder to receive and share the good things that Jesus offers us from God.
- But, if we choose to be attached to Jesus, then we are able to receive all that Jesus offers from God and then share that with the world around us.
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who invites us...

...who invites us...

...to attach to him...

...to attach to him...

...and receive your goodness...

...and receive your goodness...

...that we can then share with others.

...that we can then share with others.

Amen