

Upper Atrium

Some at home presentations as we move into this new reality with a focus on the parable of the true vine and on baptism.

Presentation I

Direct Aim: (For adult) To accept Christ's invitation to remain in him.

Materials: Bible, John 15:1-11 (note only verses 1-11)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrs/john/passage/?q=john+15:1-17>

<https://www.bible.com/bible/2016/JHN.15.NRSV>

candle if available

optional pictures of grape vines

<https://www.jpost.com/LifeStyle/Israel-the-Beautiful-Land-of-grapes-and-wines-323201>

<https://www.pinterest.com/mabm2121/grapes-on-vines/>

Introduction:

You have probably heard conversations with the younger children about the Good Shepherd. Jesus said he was the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name and makes sure they have good things to eat and lovely places to be. It is a very rich image.

In this story which you read with Anne a few weeks ago, Jesus is described as a plant. Jesus says he is the True Vine. He shares this story with his disciples or followers shortly before his death. The Good Shepherd calls his sheep, "to come."

Let's listen again to how Jesus calls us in the True Vine parable. This is an even closer relationship.

Light the candle if available (in the atrium, we light the candle when reading scripture as the Bible lights our path.)

Read John 15:1-11

Wondering questions:

What did you hear? (varies)

Who does Jesus say he is? (the True Vine)

Who does Jesus say we are? (the branches)
Who is the vine grower? (God)

What does Jesus call us to do in this parable? Jesus repeats this over and over. (in Revised Standard Version the word is abide, which means remain)

How many times does Jesus use the word abide or abides? (11) This is very important to Jesus.

What are some things we could do to stay on the vine? One way is named in the scripture. (follow God's commandments)

What will happen if we abide or remain on the vine? (we will bear much fruit)

What do you think it means that we will bear much fruit? What could our fruit be? (listen for various possibilities---we are kind, we help our parents, we take care of our friends, we treat our sisters well, etc.)

Close:

Is there anything you want to say to God in response to this scripture reading? (being quiet is a legitimate response)

Extinguish the candle.

Children may want to draw pictures of a grape vine with branches for family members and friends and much fruit or copy a line from the scripture and decorate it.

Presentation II

Direct Aim: (For adult). Through baptism we are given gifts which will help us abide, remain on the True Vine. One of these is the light of Jesus Christ.

Materials:

If possible a small candle for each child and for you the presenter and a slightly larger candle. Do not go out and buy candles. If they aren't available the girls might each draw a candle with flame and someone might draw a larger candle. These should be cut out if scissors are available.

Introduction:

Last time we gathered we spoke of Jesus' parable of the True Vine. We are the branches and Jesus wants us to remain with him on the vine. One way we are helped to remain on the vine is through Baptism.

In Baptism, Jesus shares his light with us. Light the large candle or hold up the larger paper candle. Jesus is the Light. We call this the Paschal Candle.

The last time Jesus was in Jerusalem something very sad happened. Does anyone know what that was? (Jesus died) Extinguish the candle or put down the large paper candle.

But that was not the end of the story. What happened next? (Jesus rose) Yes, Jesus rose and the light returned. Relight the large candle or hold up the large paper candle.

Presentation:

At your baptism you will be given a candle to remind you that you have received the Light of Jesus at your Baptism.

Light one of the small candles from the large candle or touch one of the small paper candles to the larger candle. Hand it to one of the girls and say: (child's name) on the day of your baptism, you will receive the light of Christ.

Repeat this for each of the girls.

Do and say for yourself last. If you have been baptized say, On the day of my baptism, I received the light of Christ.

Look at and enjoy the light and wonder. Someone may want to turn off the lights if it is evening.

Wondering questions:

How does the light make you feel?

Who else shares the light? (grandmother, (friend), Marti, Anne, etc.)

Will the light ever go out? (no)

Close: Jesus Christ's gift of light is in us. Is there anything you want to say to God? (quiet is fine)

Have each child extinguish a candle or put down the paper candle.

Has the Light of Jesus Christ gone out because we extinguished the candles? (No, the Light remains in the world and within us.)

Children may want to make a picture of a large candle, Christ's candle, the Paschal candle, and a small candle, their candle.

Presentation Three

Direct Aim: (For the adult) In baptism the Light of Jesus Christ is transmitted through the water.

Materials:

a bowl, a container of water, a small saucer or a tablespoon or flat shell, a small towel or wash cloth

pictures of baptismal fonts if you google these search words

modern baptismal fonts printable

images of baptismal fonts

Book of Common Prayer page 307

<https://www.bcponline.org>

Introduction:

We have pondered the fact that during baptism we receive Jesus's light, which strengthens our connection to Jesus the True Vine. We receive this light through the sign of water.

Presentation:

During your baptism the priest will pour water into the font, which is basically a bowl. In some churches it is a deep pool.

Do you remember Anne sharing the sign of the epiclesis with you earlier in the year? This is the sign the priest makes over the bread and wine in the Eucharist. Do you remember how to make this sign? (may not as they have not chosen to work with this material)

The priest has his hands up high, palms down, and brings his hands down over the bread and wine and asks the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and wine.

Pour the water into the bowl.

In baptism, the priest will use the sign of the epiclesis. He will usually just use one hand, palm down and hold it over the water. The priest may actually stir the water with his hand.

Demonstrate this and ask the girls if they would like to make the sign over the water.

The priest then uses the shell to splash gently the water on the candidate for baptism's forehead saying these words, " (name) I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

As you say this, make a fist with one hand and splash the water over your fist three times using the shell or the small saucer or tablespoon. The cloth is used to wipe the water off your fist.

Then the girls may do this with each other. One girl making a fist over the bowl and another sister splashing the water three times and saying the words.

The words are found at the bottom of the page on page 307 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Closing: As you think about your baptism, is there anything you would like to say to God or Jesus? (again quiet is fine.)

If possible you may want to leave these materials available so that the girls can use.

The girls might like to copy the words on a piece of paper and decorate them.

The girls might like to draw a picture of water showing how it enriches our lives or make a collage of water pictures.