

2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” (John 15:5-9)

CHILDREN'S STORIES AND ACTIVITIES

Since the central Biblical text for 2021 WPCU (John 15:5-9) is about grapes and vines:

- Ask if the children have ever had grape juice. What did they have – e.g., a grape popsicle, a glass of grape juice or Kool-Aid, grape jam or jelly? Emphasize that the popsicles, jam, and jelly we buy are made with real fruit, which is healthier.
- If a grape vine is accessible, show it to the children or show a picture. Explain what grapes need to grow and be healthy, how they grow on the vine, how the roots extend down into the ground and what happens when they are cut off – it takes approximately 25 years for the grapes vines to grow before any grapes are produced!
- Speak about their grandparents and parents and let the children describe the importance they have in the children's lives as they are growing up. Let the children describe the blessing their grandparents and parents have for their entire lives.
- Let the children describe some memorable and fun events with their grandparents and parents.
- Prior to the children's stories and activities time (during worship or at another time), arrange for one or two of the adults in the congregation to describe their ancestors and the importance they have in their lives, and how important it is to be rooted in one's traditions / cultures / customs.
- Hold up a bottle of grape juice. Pour a little into small cups and allow the children to drink the juice.
- Relate to the children how the grapes and vines connect us with God, each other and the earth.
- You may want to watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEilEfThEjk>
- Another presentation may be to have some gluten-free crackers and grape jam or jelly to share with the children. Relate a story of someone you or the children may know who makes grape jam or jelly. In simple detail, explain the process of how sharing the final product connects the person with God, other people and the earth.