

## Children's Time, May 2, 2021

Last week we talked about planting seeds. I gave each of you a “peat-pot” with seed-growing soil, a packet of seeds, and instructions on how to plant those seeds in that peat-pot. I hope you did that and will continue to care for the seeds until they produce what they’re supposed to produce!

Today I want to plant something else. I think this is called a “clothes tree.” (It’s from the Sunday School room across from my office.) See the branches? Each branch has a hole in it where you can hang things on a thread or a wire. After I plant it, what kind of tree will this grow up to be???

(It can’t grow, it’s made of wood, but the wood is dead.)

What? You don’t think it’ll grow? Maybe if I plant it really deep in good soil it will put down roots and grow up. What do you think?

I guess you’re right. Wood that’s not alive can’t grow.

Today’s story about Jesus talks about growing. He tells his disciples, his friends, that he is the vine and they are the branches. Do you know what a vine is? (At St John, remember the lily plant from Easter *last* year? It’s not exactly a vine, but it’s sort of growing like a vine. Have you ever seen pictures of a grape vine? It usually grows on fences and winds in and out, and the grapes grow in clusters on the vine.)

Jesus tells his friends that if they’re connected to him, the living vine, then they can grow in *faith*. But if they’re *not* connected to the living vine, they won’t grow at all. And if they’re not connected, they won’t grow any fruit of any kind.

What will we grow if we’re connected to Jesus, the living vine?

(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

How do we stay connected to Jesus, the vine?

(prayer, coming to worship, letting him be an influence in your life)