

## I Am The Vine, You Are The Branches

**Musical selection:** In the Garden

**Leader:** Jesus knows us so well—he knows just how to choose the examples from our human experience which will best stimulate a multitude of images in our minds, leading to a richness of understanding—a sort of burgeoning vine in our minds. Let us listen to a Scripture reading from John.

**Scripture:** John 15:1-8

**Leader:** When we plant a little ivy or grape vine, what does it do? It grows energetically with healthy branches, radiating out from the nourishing vine, to fill the garden.

And what does a healthy branch do?

**Reader # 1** A healthy branch spreads eagerly and vigorously, increasing rapidly in length and producing many new shoots and branches, until it fills every cranny, even the most inaccessible.

**All:** Lord, help us to be eager to spread your message—stretching out to touch even the most inaccessible of your people—the ones only we can reach.

**Reader # 2** A healthy branch has thick green leaves, especially when pinched off and pruned.

**All:** Lord, help us to accept gratefully and patiently the pinching and pruning by which you help us to grow.

**Reader # 3:** A healthy branch covers ugly things and makes them beautiful.

**All:** Lord, help us bring your love to the ugly things and unattractive people of this world and by it, transform them.

**Reader # 4:** A healthy branch depends on the vine for life.

**All:** Lord, help us share in your life ever more fully, remove all blockages, and help us to return that life to you, the Vine, for the nourishment of all the other branches.

**Reader # 5:** Above all, a healthy branch bears abundant fruit.

**All:** Lord, in all our work, let us bear fruit in abundance to the glory of your Father. **Amen.**

**Closing musical selection:** Bloom Where You're Planted

Adapted from "I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches" CWL PRAYS