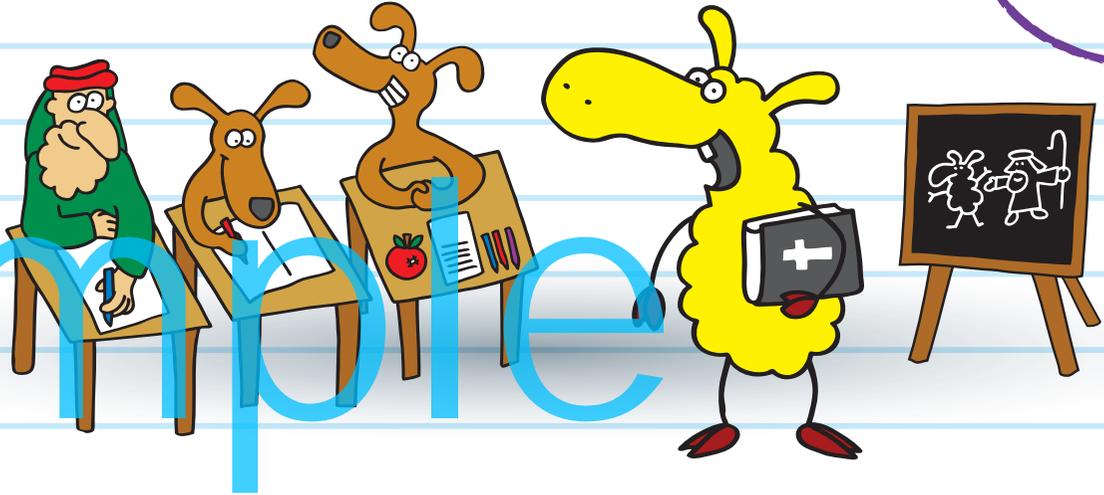




SHEEP DOG SCHOOL™

The Gardener and the Vine

Created by Andrew McDonough



Sample

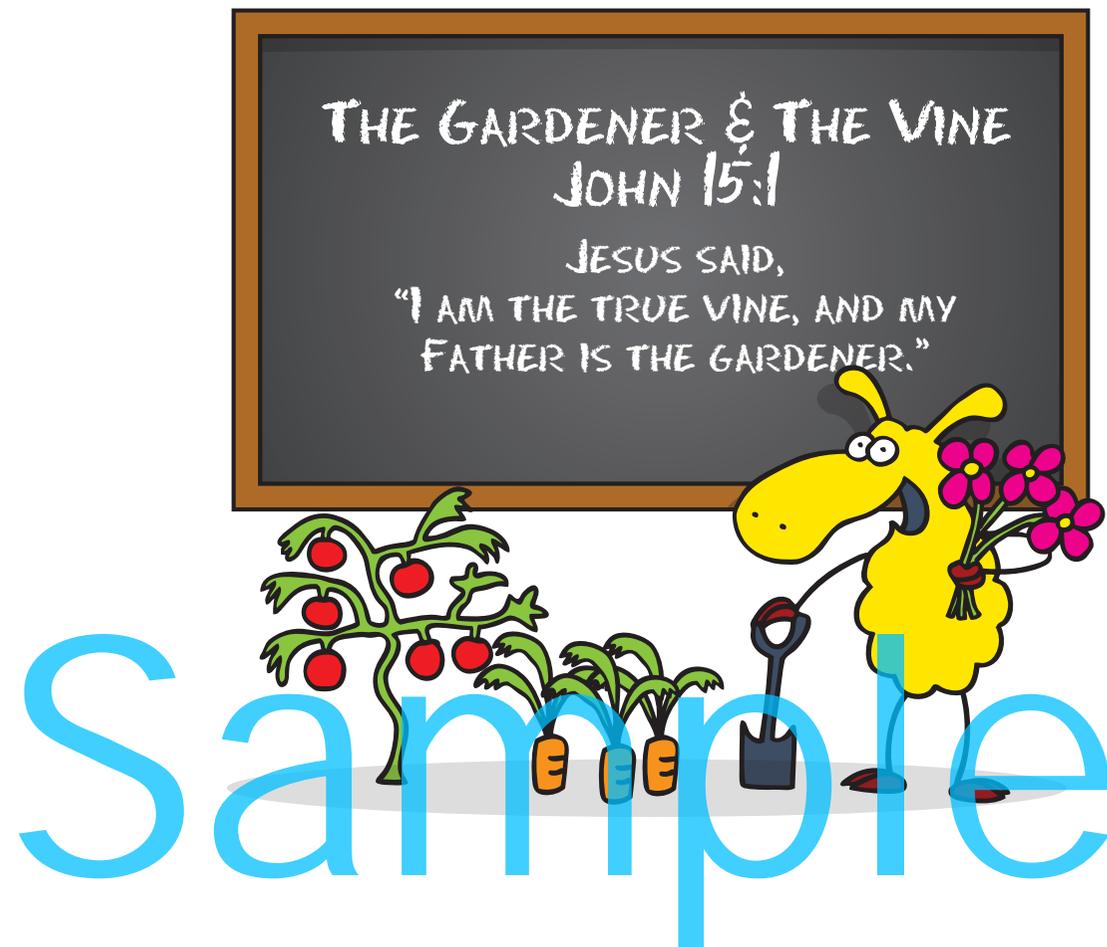
Contents



- Introduction**
- History & Geography**
- Interviews**
- Master Class**
- Teaching Tips**
- Activities**
- Bible Verses**
- The End**

Sample

Introduction

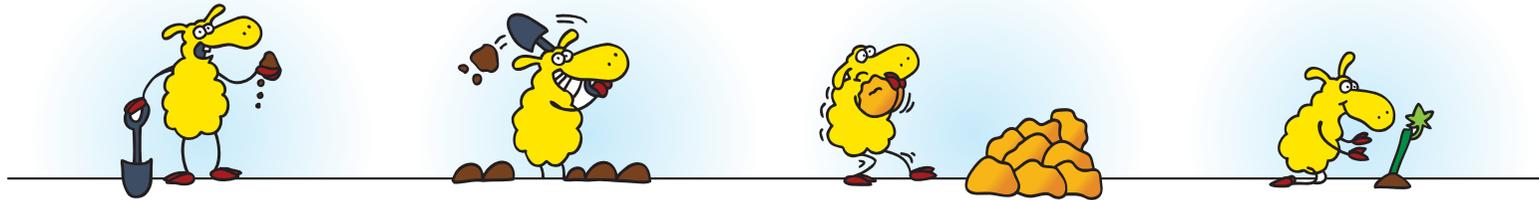


What a beautiful day!

It's too nice to be stuck in a classroom. Let's have our lesson in the garden.

Did you know the Bible begins with a garden and ends with a garden? In [Genesis 2:8-9](#), God plants a garden in Eden, and in [Revelation 22:1-2](#), the Tree of Life orchard graces the banks of the river. Did you know that at the centre of God's story are two more gardens? There is the garden of Gethsemane, which is in an olive grove where Jesus was arrested and led away to die on the cross ([Matthew 26:36](#), [Mark 14:32](#), [John 18:1-3](#)). Nearby is the garden tomb, where Jesus lay for three days before rising to new life ([John 19:41-42](#))! If you want to understand the Gospel and pass on this good news story to the children, you need to know a thing or two about gardening. So roll up your sleeves, grab a spade, and let's go!

How to Plant a Vineyard

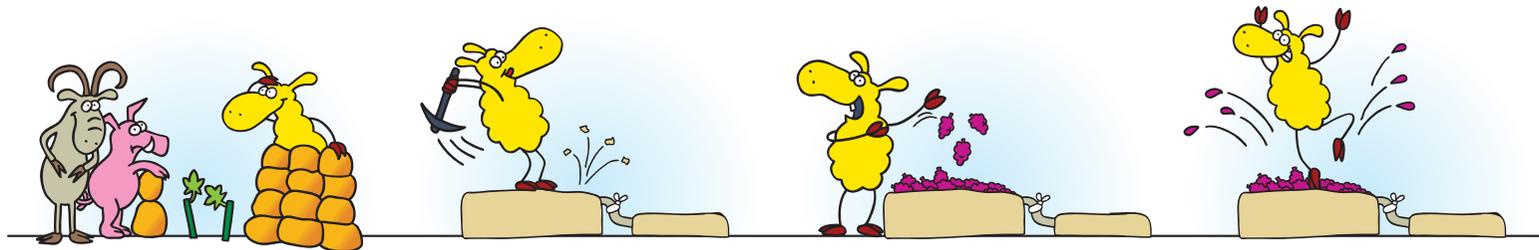


Choose a hillside with fertile soil

Dig it up

Clear the stones

Plant the choicest vines

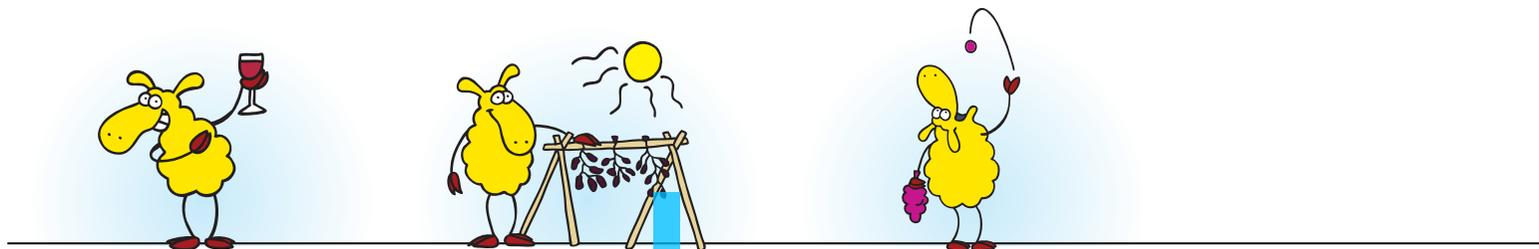


Build a watchtower and a wall

Hew a wine vat out of solid rock

Pop the grapes in the upper vat

Jump in, and crush the grapes with your bare feet



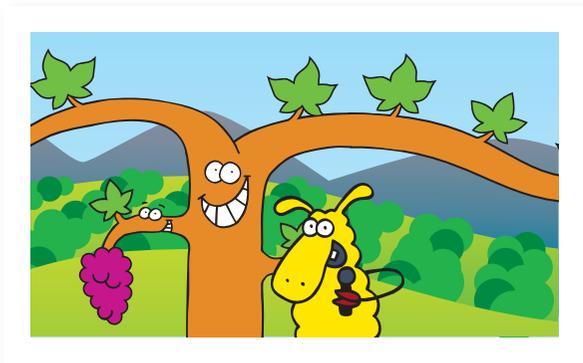
Make some wine

If you like raisins, dry some grapes in the sun

Juicy grapes fresh from the vine. Yum-oh!

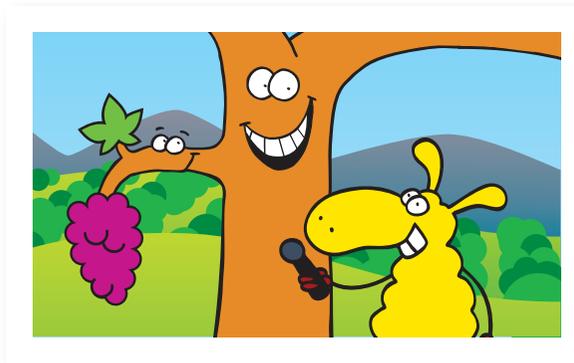
Sample

Interviews



Hi, everyone. Well, I've shown you how to plant a vineyard. Now let's meet some real garden experts: the Gardener and the Vine.

Mr. Vine, I've noticed that grapevines and vineyards are often mentioned in the Bible. What's the significance of grapevines to the people of Israel?

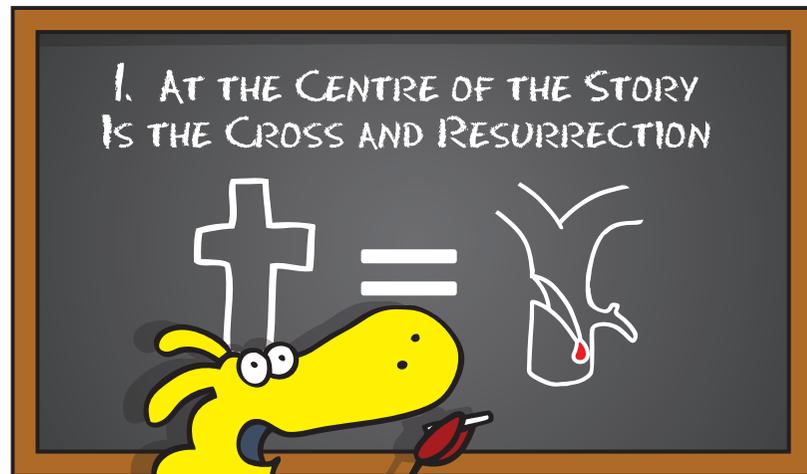


In the Old Testament, grapevines were an important sign of God's blessing ([Deuteronomy 8:7-8](#), [Joshua 24:13](#), [Isaiah 65:17-21](#), [Jeremiah 31:3-5](#), [Amos 9:14](#)). The ultimate picture of national blessing was each person sitting with their neighbours under their grapevines and enjoying the fruit ([1 Kings 4:25](#), [Micah 4:4](#), [Zechariah 3:10](#)). The blessing of the grapevine was always to be a community blessing; a symbol of God's care for everyone. Everyone was allowed to walk through their neighbour's vineyard and eat as many grapes as they liked, but they weren't allowed to take a basket and pick grapes to take home ([Deuteronomy 23:24](#)).

At harvest time, the farmer was only allowed to pass through his vineyard once. Any bunches that he missed were to be left for the most vulnerable people in the community—the foreigners, the fatherless, and the widows ([Deuteronomy 24:21](#), [Leviticus 19:10](#)). In fact, every seventh year, the whole crop was to be left for the poor and the wild animals ([Exodus 23:11](#)). I hope you are starting to see what God was teaching his people: while each family owned, worked, and profited from their vineyard, ultimately the whole land belonged to God, every blessing came from God, and everyone—even the foreigners and the wild animals—was to be embraced into the community to enjoy God's blessing. This is a picture of the Gospel!

Sample

Master Class



1. At the Centre of the Story Is the Cross and Resurrection

Sheepdog school trainees, here is the big challenge for all children's workers. The Bible is about God gathering people who are far away and embracing them into his family. At the centre of the Bible story is the cross of Christ and his resurrection. The only way for anyone to enter into the family of God is through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. Apart from the cross, there is no way of sharing in the new life of Jesus. Thus, the big challenge: how do we convey the meaning of the cross and resurrection to children?

The Gardener and the Vine is a way of sharing the story of the cross with children. The Gardener is God the Father, Jesus is the Vine, and we are branches like Basil ([John 15:1](#)). The cutting of the Vine represents the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. The placing of Basil deep into the cut on the Vine represents our sharing in the death of Jesus. As Basil was grafted into the Vine, so we are miraculously grafted into Christ and share in his resurrection life! It is this life that empowers us and our children to live fruitful, spirit-filled lives. My favourite summary of this story is in [Galatians 2:20](#), which says, "I have been crucified with Christ. I don't live any longer. Christ lives in me. My faith in the Son of God helps me to live my life in my body. He loved me. He gave himself for me." Why not teach this Bible verse to the kids? I also love [Romans 6:5, 8](#), not to mention [Romans 8:10-11](#).

Sample

Activities



Purchase the Activity Book from the Lost Sheep Shop!

[DOWNLOAD](#)



1. Let's Do Some Grafting!

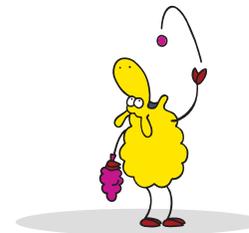
Don't just tell your children about grafting; why not show them? Is there a gardener in your church who can bring some plants to class and involve the children in grafting? It is fun and easier than it looks. The children will be amazed at the miraculous way the new branch becomes part of the plant and have a living reminder of how they can share new life in Jesus. **WARNING:** Do not use any garden chemicals near children.



2. I'm in the Vine!

Don't just tell your children they can be part of the Vine; why not stick them in the Vine? Take a photo of each child and print it. Download the picture of Basil, the Gardener, and the Vine, and then let each child stick their picture on the branch in the space provided. Hooray! Jesus is the Vine, and I'm a branch on the Vine!

[DOWNLOAD](#)



3. Let's Eat Grapes!

As you know, I love grapes, and I'm sure your children do too! Whenever I share the story of The Gardener and the Vine, I like to bring along a big bunch of grapes to share with the children after the story! It helps them remember the story and is a wonderful way of celebrating life with Jesus in the garden.



4. Bonus Activities

Download these bonus activities the kids will love them!

[DOWNLOAD](#)

Sample

Bible Verses

Genesis 2:8-9 NIV

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.

Genesis 9:20 CEV

Noah farmed the land and was the first to plant a vineyard.

Genesis 11:31 NIV

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there

Genesis 12:1-3 CEV

The Lord said to Abram Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.

Exodus 23:11 CEV

But let the land rest during the seventh year. The poor are to eat what they want from your fields, vineyards, and olive trees during that year, and when they have all they want from your fields, leave the rest for wild animals.

Leviticus 19:10 NIV

Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

Numbers 13:23-25 CEV

When they got to Bunch Valley, they cut off a branch with such a huge bunch of grapes, that it took two men to carry it on a pole. That's why the place was called Bunch Valley. Along with the grapes, they also took back pomegranates and figs.

Deuteronomy 8:7-9 CEV

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land with streams that flow from springs in the valleys and hills. You can dig for copper in those hills, and the stones are made of iron ore. And you won't go hungry. Wheat and barley

fields are everywhere, and so are vineyards and orchards full of fig, pomegranate, and olive trees, and there is plenty of honey.

Deuteronomy 23:24 NIV

If you enter your neighbour's vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you want, but do not put any in your basket.

Deuteronomy 24:21 NIV

When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow.

Deuteronomy 28:39 CEV

You will plant vineyards and work hard at taking care of them, but you won't gather any grapes, much less get any wine, and the vines

themselves will be eaten by worms.

Joshua 24:13 CEV

You didn't have to work for this land—I gave it to you. Now you live in towns you didn't build, and you eat grapes and olives from vineyards and trees you didn't plant.

Ruth 1:4-5 CEV

Later, Naomi's sons married Moabite women. One was named Orpah and the other Ruth. About ten years later, Mahlon and Chilion also died. Now Naomi had no husband or sons.

Ruth 1:16 NIV

But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.'

Sample

Matthew 21:33 CEV

Jesus told the chief priests and leaders to listen to this story: A land owner once planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it and dug a pit to crush the grapes in. He also built a lookout tower. Then he rented out his vineyard and left the country.

Matthew 26:36 CEV

Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. When they got there, he told them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Matthew 27:31

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Mark 12:1 CEV

Jesus then told them this story: A farmer once planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it and dug a pit to crush the grapes in. He also built a lookout tower. Then he rented out his vineyard and left the country.

Mark 14:32 CEV

Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he told them, "Sit here while I pray."

Mark 15:16-20 NIV

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spat on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Luke 8:2-3 CEV

One of the women was Mary Magdalene, who once had seven demons in her. Joanna, Susanna, and many others had also used what they owned to help Jesus and his disciples. Joanna's husband Chuza was one of Herod's officials.

Luke 24:5-7 CEV

The women were afraid and bowed to the ground. But the men said, "Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone who is alive? Jesus isn't here! He has been raised from death. Remember that while he was still in Galilee, he told you, 'The Son of Man will be handed over to sinners who will nail him to a cross. But three days later he will rise to life.'

John 15:1-2 CEV

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit. But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit.

John 15:16 CEV

You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name

John 18:1-3 NIV

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

John 19:25 NIV

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19:41-42 NIV

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was near by, they laid Jesus there.

John 20:11-18 CEV

Mary Magdalene stood crying outside the tomb. She was still weeping, when she stooped down 12 and saw two angels inside. They were dressed in white and were sitting where Jesus' body had been. One was at the head and the other was at the foot. 13 The angels asked Mary, "Why are you crying?" She answered, "They have taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they have put him." As soon as Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know who he was. 15 Jesus asked her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener and said, "Sir, if you have taken his body away, please tell me, so I can go and get him." Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Rabboni." The Aramaic word "Rabboni" means "Teacher." Jesus told her, "Don't hold on to me! I have not yet gone to the Father. But tell my disciples that I am going to the one who is my Father and my God, as

well as your Father and your God." Mary Magdalene then went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord. She also told them what he had said to her.

Acts 9:1-6,15,16

Saul kept on threatening to kill the Lord's followers. He even went to the high priest and asked for letters to the Jewish leaders in Damascus. He did this because he wanted to arrest and take to Jerusalem any man or woman who had accepted the Lord's Way. When Saul had almost reached Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice that said, "Saul! Saul! Why are you so cruel to me?" "Who are you?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus," the Lord answered. "I am the one you are so cruel to. Now get up and go into the city, where you will be told what to do." ... The Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen him to tell foreigners, kings, and the people of Israel about me. I will show him how much he must suffer for worshiping in my name."

Romans 4:1-3 NIV

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. What does Scripture

Sample

say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'

Romans 6:5,8 NIV

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. . . Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Romans 8:10-11 NIV

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 11:17-25 CEV

You Gentiles are like branches of a wild olive tree that were made to be part of a cultivated olive tree. You have taken the place of some branches that were cut away from it. And because of this, you enjoy the blessings that come from being part of that cultivated tree. But don't think you are better than the branches that were cut away. Just remember that you are not supporting the roots of that tree. Its

roots are supporting you. Maybe you think those branches were cut away, so that you could be put in their place. That's true enough. But they were cut away because they did not have faith, and you are where you are because you do have faith. So don't be proud, but be afraid. If God cut away those natural branches, couldn't he do the same to you? Now you see both how kind and how hard God can be. He was hard on those who fell, but he was kind to you. And he will keep on being kind to you, if you keep on trusting in his kindness. Otherwise, you will be cut away too. If those other branches will start having faith, they will be made a part of that tree again. God has the power to put them back. After all, it wasn't natural for branches to be cut from a wild olive tree and to be made part of a cultivated olive tree. So it is much more likely that God will join the natural branches back to the cultivated olive tree. The People of Israel Will Be Brought Back. My friends, I don't want you Gentiles to be too proud of yourselves. So I will explain the mystery of what has happened to the people of Israel. Some of them have become stubborn, and they will stay like that until the complete number of you Gentiles has come in.

Galatians 2:20 NIV

I have been crucified with Christ

and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 2:12-13 CEV

At that time you did not know about Christ. You were foreigners to the people of Israel, and you had no part in the promises that God had made to them. You were living in this world without hope and without God, 13 and you were far from God. But Christ offered his life's blood as a sacrifice and brought you near God.

Revelation 22:1-2 CEV

The angel showed me a river that was crystal clear, and its waters gave life. The river came from the throne where God and the Lamb were seated. Then it flowed down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river are trees that grow a different kind of fruit each month of the year. The fruit gives life, and the leaves are used as medicine to heal the nations.

Sample