

Creative Worship Resource



This resource is an assortment of ideas that leaders can choose from to explore the Vision and Commitment focus in a creative way during worship, based on John 15:1-17. The content includes **Songs, Activities, Illustrations and Response**

Songs

A selection of congregational songs and songs that musical sections can use based on the theme (songsters, band, singing company etc).

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS

- 'My life must be Christ's broken bread' - SASB 610
(See verse 3... *'The burden of the fruitful vine, the gift of buried grain...'*)
- 'Joyful, joyful' - SASB 39 (TB 367 or use Scripture-Based Songs and Settings Volume 8)
(See verse 3: *'Thou the Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine...'*)
- Jesus, be the centre - SASB 373
(Based on John 15:10)
- 'I then shall live as one who's been forgiven' - SASB 850
(Based on John 15:12)
- 'To be in your presence' - SASB 345
(Based on John 15:4)
- 'How deep the Father's love for us' - SASB 32
(Based on John 15:9)
- 'Lord, I come to you' - SASB 601



Creative Worship Resource



(Based on John 15:2,9)

- 'I wanna be a blooming tree' (Doug Horley) - (We Want To See Jesus Lifted High/King Of Heaven) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oNqXs08BPQ>

BAND

- 'Turn your Eyes upon Jesus' (David Edmonds) - Unity Series 436
(Based on John 15:1)
- 'Time to be Holy' (Paul Sharman) - Triumph Series 1229 (2)
(Based on John 15:4)
- 3 'Reasons Why' (Ian Feltwell) - General Series 2050
(Based on John 15 v.9)

SONGSTER

- 'Worthy' (Emma Pears arr. Simon Gash) - Sing to the Lord Vol 23 Part 1
(Based on John 15:10)
- 'Power in the Blood' (Lewis Edgar Jones / Nicholas King) - Sing to the Lord Vol 21 Part 3
(Based on John 15:11)
- 'Jesus is the Way' (James Morrison arr. Simon Gash) - Sing to the Lord Vol 20 Part 1
(Based on John 15:1)

SINGING COMPANY

- 'King of Heaven' (Daniel Elson), Sing to the Lord Vol 21
(John 15:4)



Creative Worship Resource



- 'Able to Save' (Norman Bearcroft / Emma Davis) Sing to the Lord Vol18
(John 15:9-10)
- 'Do Something Beautiful' (Graham Kendrick arr. Simon Gash), Sing to the Lord Vol 12
(John 15:8)

Activities

A selection of activities that encourage the whole congregation to explore the theme together.

- **No branch can bear fruit by itself**

Prepare a table with a bunch of grapes on it.

Ask somebody to sit on a chair away from the grapes and tell them to take the bunch of grapes without moving their legs or arms.

They may just look at you because they don't know how to do it. They cannot stand up and they cannot move the chair. The only way they can get the grapes is by asking someone to help them. The other person can carry the chair to the grapes or can bring the grapes to the chair.

It is the same in the Bible passage. We are the branches but we cannot bear fruit without remaining in Christ. We cannot bring people to God without his help. We cannot be effective in ministry without his help. There are times when he will place people directly in front of us and literally give them to us, and there are times when the journey will be more difficult and he will need to carry us to reach the people. What is important is that he remains in us and we don't try to do it on our own.



Creative Worship Resource



- **Good grape, bad grape**

This can be used in the lead-up to the Bible reading.

Prepare a bunch of green seedless grapes in a bowl, a bunch of red seedless grapes in a second bowl, and red and green grapes that have gone rotten and mouldy in a third bowl.

(Note: If you are thinking of involving children in this activity, please do not serve them grapes unless they have been cut in half lengthways.)

Cover the bowls until you are ready to use them.

Ask different people in the wider group if they like fruit and what their favourite fruit is.

Ask for a couple of volunteers to be 'fruit tasters'. Uncover the first bowl of green grapes and allow the volunteers to taste them, asking if they taste good. Do the same with the bowl of red grapes. Finally, move on to the bowl of rotten grapes. As you uncover them, see the reaction of the participants. Ask them if they want to try these ones; and why not. Let them explain and then ask them which of the three bowls tasted the best.

Explain that good fruit is a blessing to our bodies. Ask the congregation where grapes come from and then project a photo of a grape vine. Share that the grapevine sends out branches, and the grapes grow in clusters which hang down from the branches. Explain that the grapevine was a very familiar sight in Jesus' day and that he used them to teach us important lessons.

- **Fruit Pictionary**

Prepare pens and two big sheets of paper to be stuck on a wall or on individual flip charts.

Ask for four volunteers to form pairs. Explain that you are going to play Fruit Pictionary. Ask each pair to choose one person to start off drawing while the other one guesses, and then change over for each round. Both pairs will be drawing and guessing at the same time. Keep track of the points. Some suggested words or actions for people to draw related to fruit can be: Banana, apple, pineapple, grape, love, helping someone, Bible reading, prayer etc.



Creative Worship Resource



Illustrations

A drama piece and videos that can be shared with the congregation to creatively explore the theme.

- **'Rotten fruit', a sketch by Stephanie Lamplough**
 - *Jesus*
 - *A small number of people to be 'branches' but one branch as the main character*
 - *Beautiful-looking fruit and a not-so-beautiful looking fruit for each branch*

Jesus stands in the centre.

One by one the branches come on and each gives Jesus one end of a rope, and then they stand far away enough to form a 'branch'. When attached they take out the delicious fruit and hold it.

After all branches are in position and each is linked to Jesus by a rope, one branch decides that it no longer needs to be attached and lets go of the rope. As it does so, it also surprisingly drops the beautiful fruit. The branch steps aside and says, *'Not to worry. I'll just grow another piece of fruit'*. But when it pulls the fruit out of its pocket it is not as big or as tasty. The branch eats a bit of it and throws it away. It takes a step further away from the other branches and says, *'Not to worry. I'll just grow another piece of fruit.'* The branch puts its hands in its pockets and empties them out, but they are empty - no fruit (*looks at the congregation despairingly*).

The branch then looks at Jesus at the centre of the 'tree'. Jesus holds out his hand. The branch puts the rope back into Jesus' hand, and as he does so, Jesus gives him a beautiful looking fruit. The branch takes its place back as a 'branch' in the tree, holding up the fruit.

- **Videos**
 - The True Vine - Bible animation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0yu1qyevwE>



Creative Worship Resource



- Bible Theatre: John - Vine and Branches - children
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDIS4otedvY>
- Read Scripture: John Chapter 13-21 ('The Bible Project') - until 3m 38 secs
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUFh_wOsauk

Response

Ideas for creatively responding to the theme of *Living Fruitfully*

- Commitment Cards(adults and children)

Use the commitment cards to help people consider where they are in their journey and to commit to 'living fruitfully' throughout 2019. The cards can be placed on the mercy seat, or on people's chairs before the meeting.

Explain that the perforated part of the card symbolises the things that God wants to prune in our lives. Encourage people to spend time in prayer as they ask him to do that and tear away the perforated section (provide a place where it can be disposed of). After people have done this, encourage them to sign the remaining part of the card and be reminded of their commitment to remain in Christ, so that he can bear fruit, through them, for his glory, in the year ahead.

- Close to the Vine

Prepare a large piece of paper, pens, variety of cut-out paper fruit and Blu Tack

Draw a tree trunk and branches on a large piece of paper and place it at the front of the room. Place a basket with the 'fruits' next to the 'tree'. As music is played, ask people to consider where they are in relation to remaining in Christ and having him at the centre of their life. Encourage them to come to the front and stick the fruit on the piece of paper in the place that represents where they are, and spend time there in prayer asking God to help them to be close to him. (It could be right on the tree trunk, on a branch close to the trunk, on a branch further away from the trunk, on the floor at the foot of the tree or on the furthest point away from the trunk.)



Creative Worship Resource



- The Vine

Prepare a long piece of rope and short strips of green strands (can be cord, cloth, satin etc).

Stretch the rope out in front of the room or down the centre aisle and place the green strands next to it. Explain that the rope represents Jesus, the Vine. Ask people to come to the front and tie a piece of strand to the rope, symbolically reminding us that we are united to Christ. As they do so, encourage people to commit to knowing Christ better through their connectedness to him, and as such, bearing good fruit for his Kingdom.

