

Early Word and Prayer: John 15:1-8

Easter 5, Year B

By Beth Barnett

This is a story and prayer based on John 15:1-8, for use during Early Word time.	
You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Hang on' plasticine story (powerpoint is included in the Risen and Real Resources) • A really well-prepared, engaging story-teller • Green and purple plasticine in small lumps and a solid table or hard surface
Time required:	3 minutes

Things to think about beforehand:

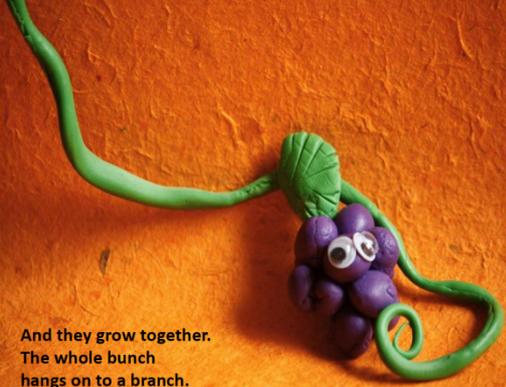
This, like all Bible stories, is an all-age story. Don't call children to the front, away from their **families**. This is a story to listen to as family, as whole community, so draw all your community in. Use all your best story telling gestures, work the whole space, remember that timing, suspense, pause and dynamics are essential in shaping communication that serves the listener well.

With each repetition of the phrase "hang on" grasp on to something around your space, suggesting the connectedness of the environment, as well as those within it.

Introduction

Provide 2 small lumps of purple and green plasticine to each person before the story begins.

We are going to listen to a story today, from John 15. While we are listening and looking at the story on the screen, I invite you to roll small round grapes from the purple plasticine and longer sections of vine and leaves from the green. Hang on to them, we will need them at the end!

<p>Hang On</p> <p>The Vine</p> <p>John 15:1-17</p> 	<p>Here's a little grape. She's very small.</p> 
 <p>But look! She's not alone She has a bunch of friends They hang around together.</p>	 <p>And look, they are all connected. Each of them has a little stem that hangs on to the bunch.</p>
 <p>And they grow together. The whole bunch hangs on to a branch.</p>	<p>And the branch reaches way, way back ...</p> 



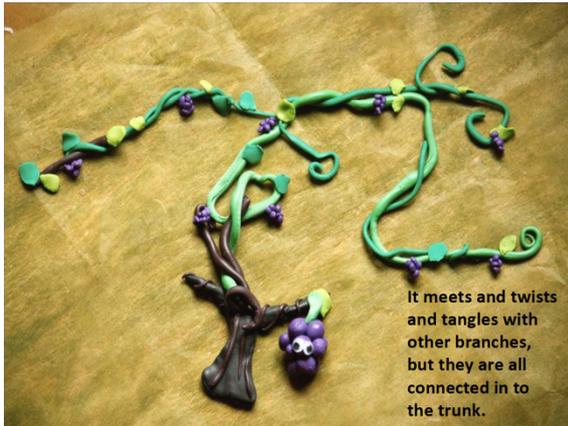
back a bit ...



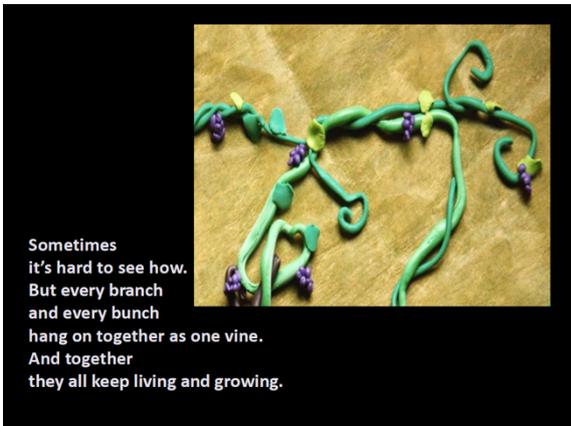
back a bit further ...
that's it.



Right back –
but hanging on all the way.
The branch goes back to the trunk.



It meets and twists
and tangles with
other branches,
but they are all
connected in to
the trunk.



Sometimes
it's hard to see how.
But every branch
and every bunch
hang on together as one vine.
And together
they all keep living and growing.



If they didn't hang on...
oops, like this one,
they wouldn't grow.

Jesus says –
hang on to me.
I'm like the vine
that hangs on
to you.
And to hang on
to me,
is to hang on
to God.
And hang on
to each other,
as you hang on
to me.
God is hanging on
to us all.



*When the story is
each person to join their*

*finished ask
grapes and line*



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to the person's next to them.

As they do so, invite them to pray this simple prayer for each other

'I pray that you [name] will hold on to Jesus, grow in the spirit and be fruitful in love and justice and peace.'

Or - choose one of the shorter prayers

'I pray for you as you keep holding on to Jesus'

'I pray for you as you grow in the Spirit of God'

'I pray for you as you are fruitful in the kingdom'

This vine is then to be added to another near by,

As you do this take the opportunity to pray for another and another, getting larger each time.

Gradually bring the prayers together on a table or board on the floor.

Finish the prayers with a simple affirmation:

**Thankyou Living Lord Jesus that you hang on to us
in your faithfulness and grace. Keep us connected
to one another with care and reaching out other in
your love.**

**We pray for the sake of your growing and living
Kingdom**

Amen.



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