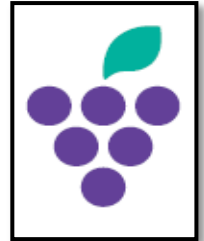


# THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

## # 29 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

*Good morning!*

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020*



The GRAPE: It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.

**#5 Faith is LIKE a Farmer - 2 Tim 2:1 – 7**



**GOD** has not given us  
a spirit of **fearfulness**  
but of **POWER** and of  
*Love*  
and of a *Sound Mind.*  
2 Timothy 1:7

[knowing-jesus.com](http://knowing-jesus.com)

## **FAITH LIKE A FARMER.**

I have never been a farmer, and for decades I've said that I didn't have enough faith to be a farmer.

*Why did I say that?*

*What is it about farming that intimidates me?*

I will often say working hard and getting the perfect crop, only to see frost, hail or heat destroy it, would be devastating. I can't control the weather, therefore farming seems too hard.

But the truth is, what *can* I control about life?

I can only control how I behave and sometimes when my emotions drive the bus, I don't even do that well!

*Is life seriously about control?*

Because we don't get control, we get options. We can choose how we respond to some drama or event that occurs. Regardless of what many say, we don't get to control or choose the outcome either.

The older I get the more I realise that my experiences in life provide my Faith a deeper strength, because I have suffered in life; things beyond my control have occurred and yet here I stand. The picture below is my favourite picture of a farmer in his field... *what do you see in this?*



*Is the storm coming or going?*

*Having weathered other storms  
what do you know about  
yourself?*

*Storms come and go, what  
doesn't change for you?*

One thing I know is that here I/we stand, a child of God whose future is assured!

Rev DJPrior

## **18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 20 INTERIM WORSHIP:**

Join us on Sunday from 9.30 am to approx. 10.15 am for our service, a chance to Worship and reconnect.

The maximum attendance is 55 people, which includes the Worship team.

**Service - Recorded and LIVE STREAMED onto Vines Web page.**

[https://www.youtube.co/results?search\\_query=the+vines+uniting+church](https://www.youtube.co/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church)

### **BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Please book your tickets through **Humanitix** from 3pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October until 11 am on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. and phone Judy Beames or Lynn Ellison if you need help with booking.

Should you need **TO CANCEL** your tickets, please let Judy or Lynn know by **4 pm on Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> October**, (unless there are unexpected circumstances), to enable them to rebook the tickets.

**Please do not attend the Sunday Service if you are at all unwell.**

**Join us for online tea and coffee after church again this Sunday**

At **11.00 am** tomorrow, **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October**, we will again catch up for VIRTUAL coffee and tea after Church. Visitors welcome!

**Please refer to this week's Grapevine for more information**

**CHECK <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com>**

**Remember OUR key MESSAGE:**

***"Phone a Friend and Choose life"***

'Cos you can't catch the virus over the phone...

**But you CAN pass on God's love!**



Last Sunday I mentioned that one of our aims at The Vines and as individuals is **“To Grow stronger through COVID 19”**.

**Below are some questions that are important to reflect upon and explore...**

Q. *What does “Grow Stronger” look like as individuals, couples, home groups, music team, leadership team....?*

Q. *How would you/we define what ‘stronger’ means?*

Faith muscles require resistance to grow:

1. *What is the nature of the resistance this COVID pandemic is producing?*
2. *Are we aware of the type of faith muscles we are growing?*
  - a. *Are they different?*
  - b. *If so, how?*
  - c. *What have you noticed?*

**DIG DEEPER ...** broaden the story

The WHY question:

***“COVID has provided people a chance to stop and review what they have been doing and ask: WHY am I doing this?”***

Q. *What have you noticed about people’s motivation / enthusiasm, etc?*

**BRAINSTORM ... PROCESS:**

1. Name the STUFF that is going on in people’s lives due to COVID

- a. Dig deeper ... focus on either general / specific themes.
- b. General over-arching themes ...  
with stories to support if people are happy to share.

2. Explore the IMPACT

*HOW does social distancing, isolation impact my experience and connection to Home group, society, family, church, etc.*

3. Strategy

We cannot change without awareness

- i. *What awareness is generated through this process?*
- ii. *Are there any emerging strategies*
- iii. *Metaphors for the experience even?*

More thoughts to follow during the following months... **RevDJP**