

Trees 1

What does a tree need?

Did you know that trees can teach us about God?

A tree is very strong, but it needs a constant supply of certain things from God's creation in order to stay strong.

Draw a picture of a tree and show how it needs the following things:

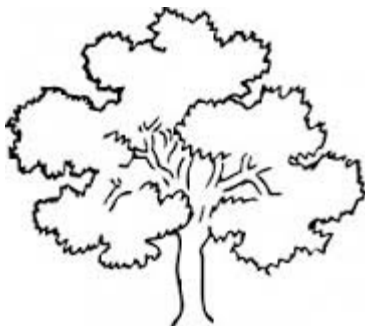
- Sunlight
- Nutrients from the soil
- Air
- Water

Sometimes, when there is a serious drought that goes on for a long period, a tree can die. A tree can also die if it gets too much water. If an area becomes flooded, and water surrounds the roots for a long time, the tree will die because the roots cannot get air.

To stay alive, a tree must have a constant supply of the life-giving resources from God's creation.

What does a tree need to stay alive?

What happens when a tree does not get the things it needs?



Trees 2

The Grape Vine

Jesus told us that as Christians, we are like trees. In order to stay alive in our relationship with Jesus, we must stay connected to Him. Jesus gives us the things we need.

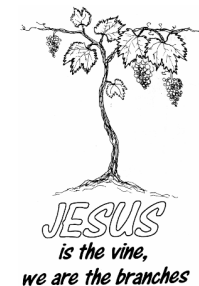
Jesus is the living water. A tree needs water. We need the living water to keep our relationship with Him alive.

Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4. What is special about the water that Jesus gives? (verse 13)

Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. A grape vine is a kind of tree. We have to stay connected to the strong part of the grape vine. Jesus is the strong part of the vine. When we stay connected to Him we will have eternal life.

Read about the Jesus, the Vine in John chapter 15.

1. What do we have to do to stay healthy in our relationship with Jesus? (verse 5)
2. What happens to those who do not stay connected? (verse 6)
3. What kind of life is Jesus offering?



Trees 3

A tree planted by the water

Psalm 1 says, "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men, who do not follow the example of sinners. Instead they find joy in obeying the law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like the trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do." (GNB)

1. What do you think the water in the stream represents?
2. What are the benefits of having your roots on the bank of the stream?

Psalm 92:12-14 says, "The righteous will flourish like palm trees; they will grow like the cedars of Lebanon. They are like trees planted in the house of the Lord, that flourish in the temple of our God, that still bear fruit in old age, and are always green and strong." (GNB)

3. Name two trees mentioned in these verses.
4. What are the benefits of being planted in the House of the Lord?



Trees 4

Parts of a tree

1. Make a drawing of a tree big enough to fill half a page. Write the names of all the parts. Use arrows. Here are the names of the parts of a tree.

trunk roots leaves branches bark twigs

2. There are some parts of the tree that we only see sometimes. Add these to your drawing

- fruit
- nuts
- sap
- berries
- cones



Trees 5

The leaves

The leaves have a special work to do. They make food for the tree. They use sunlight and water and a special gas called carbon dioxide from the air to make sugar. We can see this sugary food on trunks sometimes. It is called sap. It looks like syrup. The leaves have another important job to do. They give out oxygen to the air.

1. What is the special job of the leaves?
2. What do the leaves need to make the food?
3. What does the food look like?
4. What else do the leaves do?



Trees 6

The roots

The roots have a special work to do. They hold the tree in the ground. They also take water from the ground and send it up to the leaves. The leaves need water to make food.

The trunk

The trunk has a special work. It carries food and water up and down the tree. It has little tubes that act like the veins and arteries in our bodies.

The branches

The branches have a special work. The leaves, fruit, flowers and nuts grow on them. They must be strong!

Why are the roots important?

What does the trunk do?

What is the job of the branches?



Trees 7

Festival of Fruits

The Jewish people have a festival each year to celebrate the fruits produced by their trees. When a tree matures it produces its first fruits.

Jewish people give thanks to God each year for the first fruits of the trees of Israel. These fruits are oranges, raisins, figs, dates and carobs.

The festival is called Tu B'Shvat. They recognize the importance of trees by planting new trees planting in the desert areas. The children are told this story, to help them understand how important trees are. Here is the story:

The king was riding through the countryside, when he noticed an old man planting a tree.

"What are you planting?" he called.

"A carob tree," replied the old man.

"How long will it be before your tree bears fruit?" asked the king.

The old man shrugged his shoulders. "Maybe seventy years," he replied.

"And how old are you?" the king said.

Seventy years old," was the answer.

"Do you expect then, to eat the fruit of that tree you are planting?"

"Oh no!" answered the old man.

"But I when I was young there were many fruit trees and plenty of fruit for me to eat. The trees were planted by people in the past. So I plant trees, so that my children's children may eat fruit too."

What can we learn from this story?

Trees 8

Trees of the world

Trees grow all around the world.

Some trees grow where it is hot. Some trees grow well where it is cold.

Many countries have summer and winter seasons, where it is hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It would be too cold for the leaves of many the trees to stay green. So these leaves turn yellow, red and brown before winter, and fall to the ground. Then the tree has no leaves for the winter. But that is alright, because when the spring comes, the tree grows new leaves. God has made it that way.

There are some trees that grow perfectly well in the snow. These are pine trees. They have thin needles that can survive the snow. They do not lose their leaves. You have probably seen a pine tree. A Christmas tree is a pine tree.

Leaf shapes

Trees have leaves of many different shapes.

Draw some different shaped leaves.

You could also do some leaf rubbings.

Draw a pine tree.

Draw a tree that has lost its leaves for the winter.

In which country might you find this tree?

