



# Bear Fruit

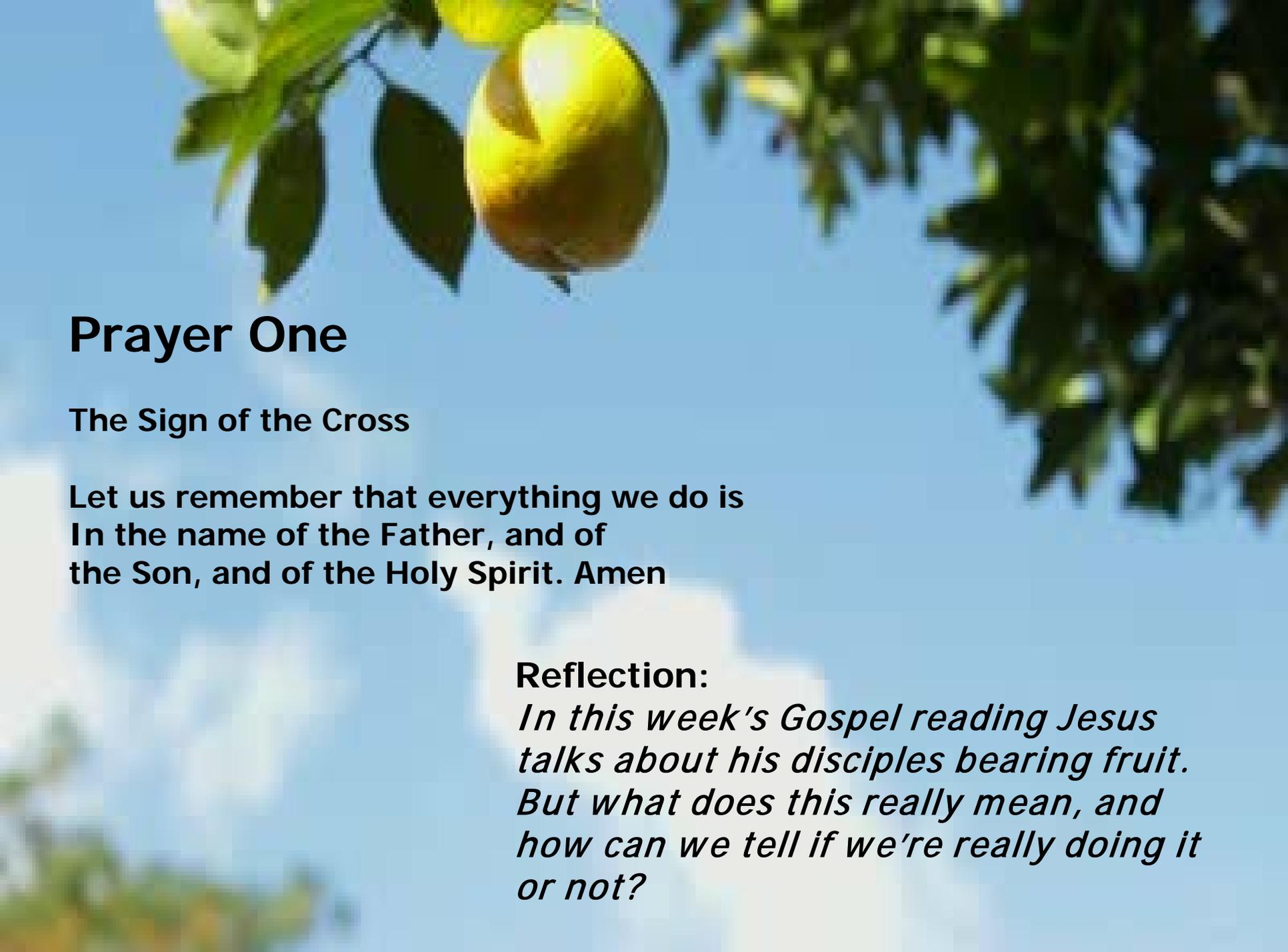


**This Sunday's Gospel, 5th Sunday of Easter Year B  
(John 15: 1-8)**



**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**



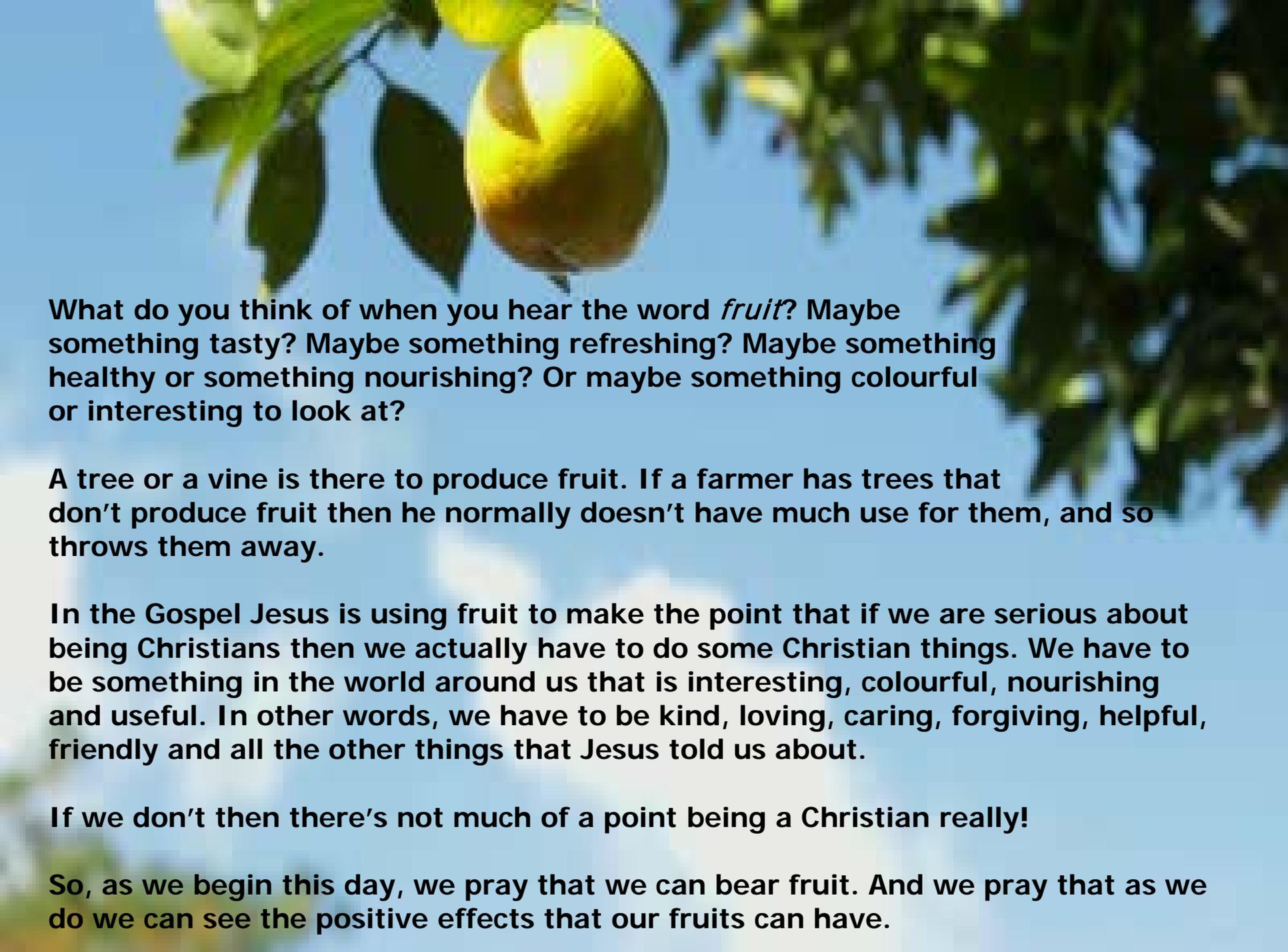
# Prayer One

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### Reflection:

*In this week's Gospel reading Jesus talks about his disciples bearing fruit. But what does this really mean, and how can we tell if we're really doing it or not?*



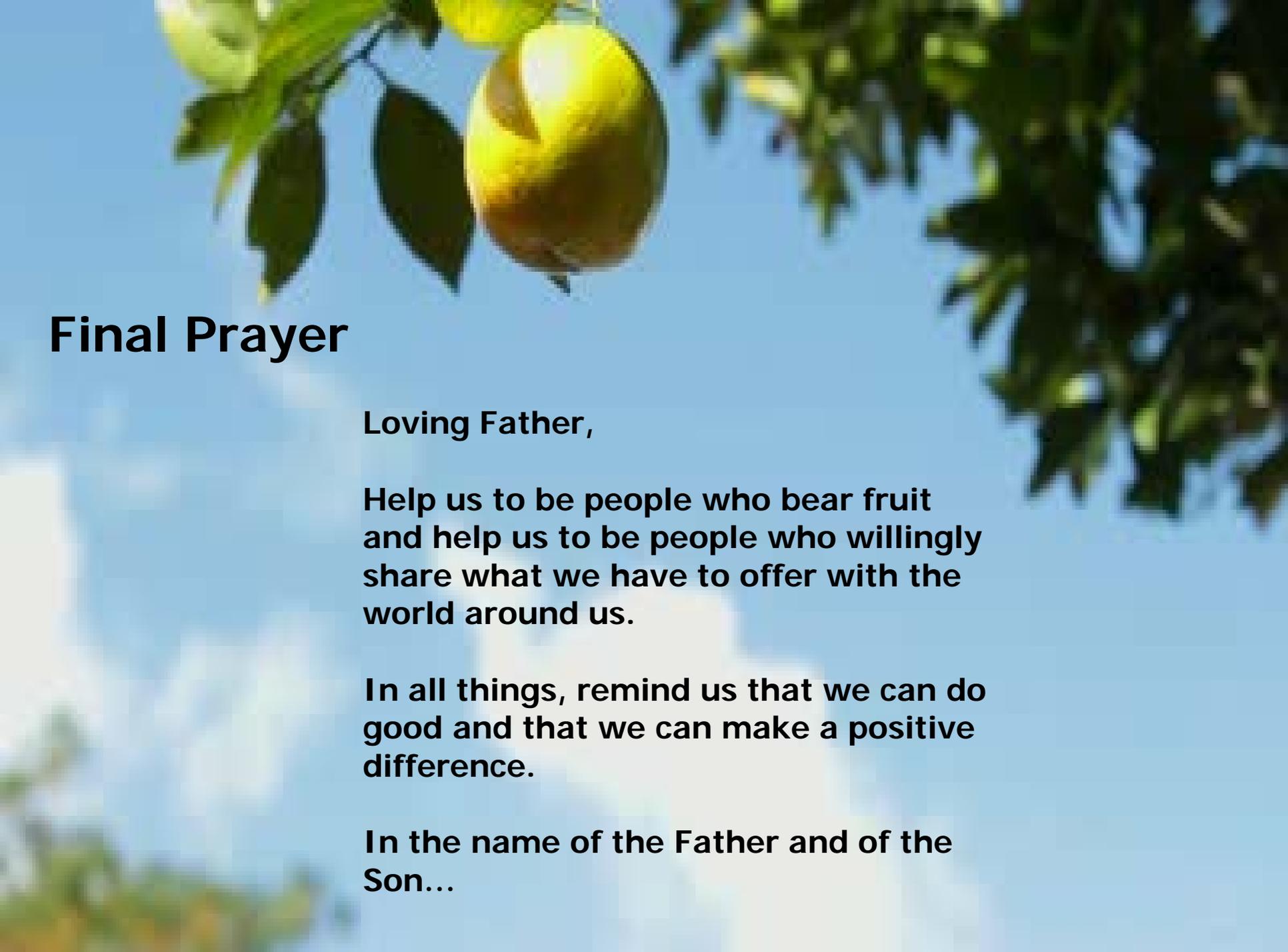
**What do you think of when you hear the word *fruit*? Maybe something tasty? Maybe something refreshing? Maybe something healthy or something nourishing? Or maybe something colourful or interesting to look at?**

**A tree or a vine is there to produce fruit. If a farmer has trees that don't produce fruit then he normally doesn't have much use for them, and so throws them away.**

**In the Gospel Jesus is using fruit to make the point that if we are serious about being Christians then we actually have to do some Christian things. We have to be something in the world around us that is interesting, colourful, nourishing and useful. In other words, we have to be kind, loving, caring, forgiving, helpful, friendly and all the other things that Jesus told us about.**

**If we don't then there's not much of a point being a Christian really!**

**So, as we begin this day, we pray that we can bear fruit. And we pray that as we do we can see the positive effects that our fruits can have.**



# Final Prayer

**Loving Father,**

**Help us to be people who bear fruit  
and help us to be people who willingly  
share what we have to offer with the  
world around us.**

**In all things, remind us that we can do  
good and that we can make a positive  
difference.**

**In the name of the Father and of the  
Son...**

# Prayer Two

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### Reflection

*In this week's Gospel Jesus tells us  
that we can only bear fruit if we  
stay connected to the vine.*



**Fruit doesn't grow all by itself. It needs constant care and attention if it's going to develop properly. It needs to be watered, watched, pruned occasionally, and given plenty of sunlight.**

**In this week's Gospel Jesus compares our faith to fruits, and he makes the point that we cannot *bear fruit* unless we stay connected to the vine. In other words, just as fruit cannot grow by itself, the good fruits that we produce - in other words, the good things that we do - can't develop properly unless we stay connected to what feeds us and gives us life.**

**Perhaps today we can pray that we can stay connected to the things that give us strength and life: our families, those we love, our values and, most importantly, our faith in God.**



# Final Prayer

Loving Father,

We are your children who you love and care for like a farmer watching over his most precious crops, or parents watching over their beloved children. Help us to remember that you haven't left us to fend for ourselves. But rather help us to turn to you and to remember that you are with us in all things.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...





**Nelson Mandela was elected after the end of apartheid; a cruel system which discriminated against black people and gave them few rights.**

**When we talk about *bearing fruit*, we are talking about good things happening. In other words, we are talking about things ending up the way that we feel they should.**

**In countries where there is a lot of suffering or where the people are being treated in a cruel way, there is always a real struggle for justice. For many people who fight for what's right, it must seem like change is never going to come. That's why it must be all the more joyful when there is that final victory.**

**The people of South Africa had struggled for years for equality, and so it must have felt amazing when Nelson Mandela was elected president.**

**Perhaps today we can pray for the people in the world who are still struggling for justice.**



# Final Prayer

Loving Father,

You can make all of our efforts bear fruit,  
and you can you show us that in the end  
justice and goodness will triumph. Be with  
all those who suffer for what is right. Give  
them hope, and help their work to bear fruit.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...



# Final Thought...



*Next weeks theme: Love One Another*