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1. Fruitful branches

*What does the icon mean?*

It represents the roots of the Abraham family tree going down into the promises of God.

*Relevant Scripture*

* Key verse for “fruitful branches”: John 15.5
* The story of God’s promises to Abraham: Genesis 12.1-3
* Jesus as the one who grafts us into the family tree: Gal. 3.29

*Why do we get to be fruitful branches on the Abraham family tree?*

God wants his blessing to go to every family in the world, but he does not give it to every family directly. He created a special family through Abraham, and he uses that family to bless all the rest. Because of Jesus, we get to be members of Abraham’s family, fruitful branches on Abraham’s family tree. We see what God is doing and why, and this is it:

He is keeping his ancient promise to Abraham. He promised that Abraham’s family would grow to become millions of descendants, and God would bless every family on earth through that huge family. Jesus was one of those descendants of Abraham. He expanded the family to include spiritual descendants not just Abraham’s relatives by birth. That means we can be grafted into the Abraham family tree like branches being grafted onto a fruit tree.

Once we are attached, we have Abraham’s faith and Jesus’ life flowing into us by his Holy Spirit. Then we can produce lots of fruit like love and joy that can bless many people. We are part of the fulfillment of God’s ancient promise to bless every family through Abraham’s family.

*What will we do today as fruitful branches?*

* What’s happening on our schedule today?
* What does today’s Jubilee Card have to do with that?
* God wants to bless other people around us by producing fruit in us that they will be glad for. How can we encourage and bless each other in our family today?
* Who else do we know who needs some help or encouragement today?
* What little things can we do to bless people, like a smile or taking notice of somebody who is having a hard day?

*More*

[The story of the world, told in a way that shows why we see ourselves as fruitful branches on the Abraham family tree. (4-5 min to read aloud)](https://www.syncx.org/w-a-w-roots)

See Jubilee Cards on next page

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| *Sunday*  *SYNC Card 8*  All families on earth will be blessed through Abraham, and that includes  yours, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Genesis 12.3 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you that as we bless others, we are part of the fulfillment of your ancient promise to Abraham.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *Monday*  *SYNC Card 9*  Some of the branches were pruned and you wild olive shoots were graf-ted in. Now you are fed by that rich and holy root, but that doesn’t give you any bragging rights, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Romans 11.17 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you for grafting us into Abraham’s family tree and letting us get nourished by that root.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *Tuesday*  *SYNC Card 10*  Just go ahead with what you’ve been given, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You received Christ Jesus, the  Master; now live him. You’re deeply rooted in him.  Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Colossians 2.7 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you for our deep roots in Jesus, through whom we become members of Abraham’s family.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *Wednesday*  *SYNC Card 11*  I am the Vine, you are the branches. When we are attached, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing.  Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of John 15.5 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you for our living attachment to Jesus the Messiah, the source of a fruitful life.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *Thursday*  *SYNC Card 12*  The Spirit of Christ produces fruits such as these, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, loyalty, tolerance, and self-control.  Adapted from J.B. Phillips translation of Galatians 5.22-23 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you that a fruitful life comes not by us trying harder but by accepting your Spirit’s influence.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *Friday*  *SYNC Card 13*  Now that you belong to me, you are an heir of Abraham. You have a share in  everything I promised him, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!  Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Galatians 3.29 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you that we get to be heirs in Abraham’s family, sharing in all the promises you gave him.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *Saturday*  *SYNC Card 14*  Jew or Gentile, backward or sophisticated, slave or free – none of it matters  any more, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I lift my people above all that.  Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Colossians 3.11 | This is a day to remember God’s promises to Abraham, and to live like they matter.    *We see ourselves in Christ as* ***fruitful branches*** *on the Abraham family tree*  Thank you for making us all equals in the family of Abraham. We won’t look down on anyone today.  [www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |