



# ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

October 21-23, 2016

Ft. Smith First United Methodist Church



# JOHN 15:1-5

Who is the vine?

Who are the branches?

What is branch theology?



# THE VINE

# THE BRANCHES



# THE FRUIT



# BRANCH THEOLOGY #1

My job to cling to the vine

My responsibility to extract life  
from the vine

My responsibility to produce  
fruit

My desire to avoid pruning

# BRANCH THEOLOGY #2

Jesus grafted me into the  
vine

The vine gives life into me

A natural consequence of  
connection is fruitfulness

God, the vine dresser, prunes  
- the path to greater  
fruitfulness



# INSIGHTS:

- Connectedness is the key to fruitfulness.
- Pruning and surrender is the path to growth and peace
- Fruit of the spirit are the natural consequence



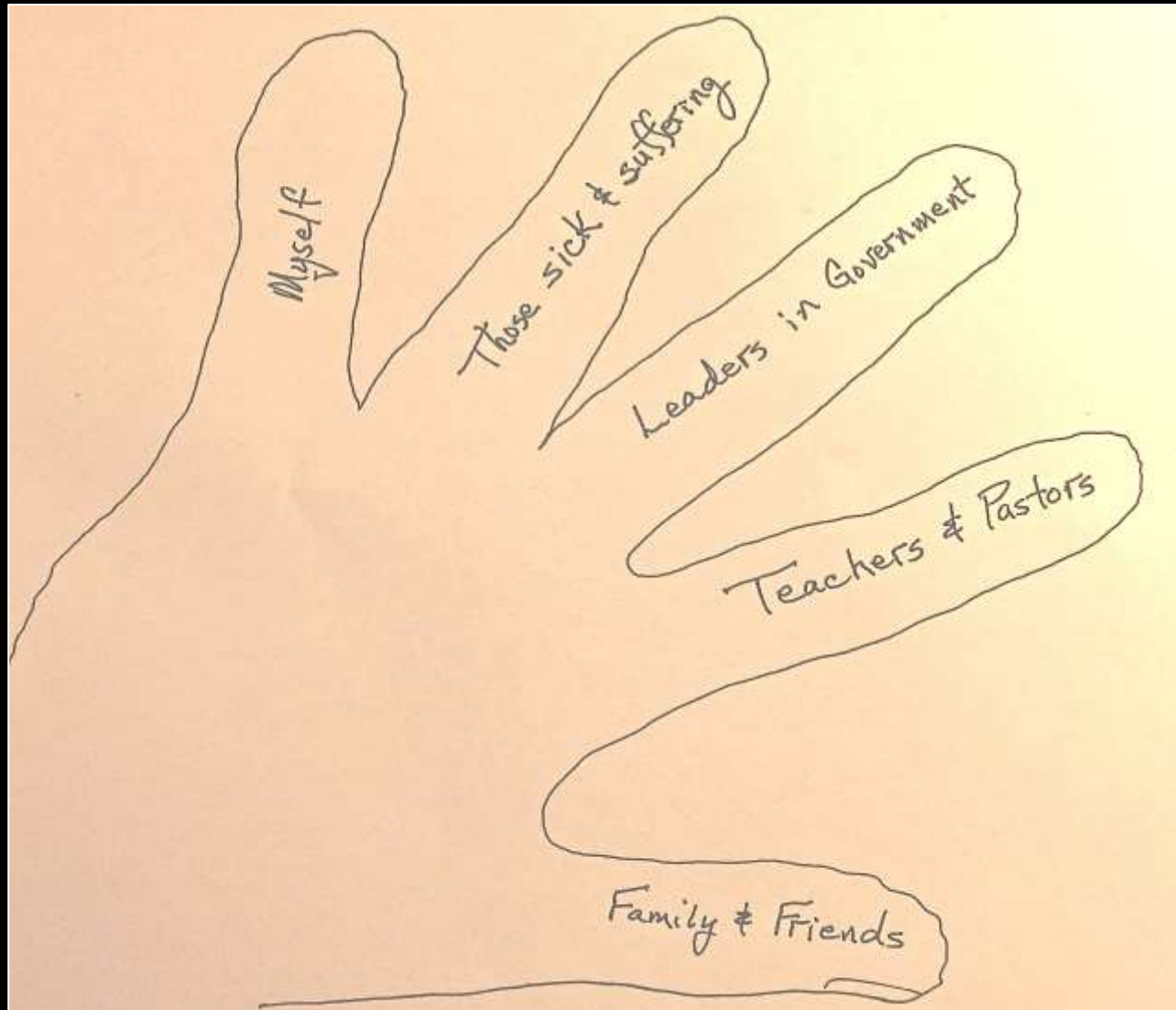
# CONVERSATION:

- If pruning would make me more fruitful, what would I ask the Gardner to prune/cut/remove from me?
- If pruning would make us more fruitful, what would I ask the Gardner to prune/remove from us?

# PRUNING AND PRAYER:

- Prune/cut/remove my attitudes and actions toward prayer.
- Prune my fear of failing my children and grandchildren and the children of this church

# FIVE FINGER PRAYER



# BLESSING AND CURSING

God gives us, you and me, the spiritual authority and power to bless and to curse.

Have you received the blessing?  
Have you imparted the blessing?

# BLESS THE MEAL

Biological families sit together

Spiritual families created for the  
prayer time

# ENJOY THE MEAL

Each one tell his/her favorite taste on the plate and why this is so.

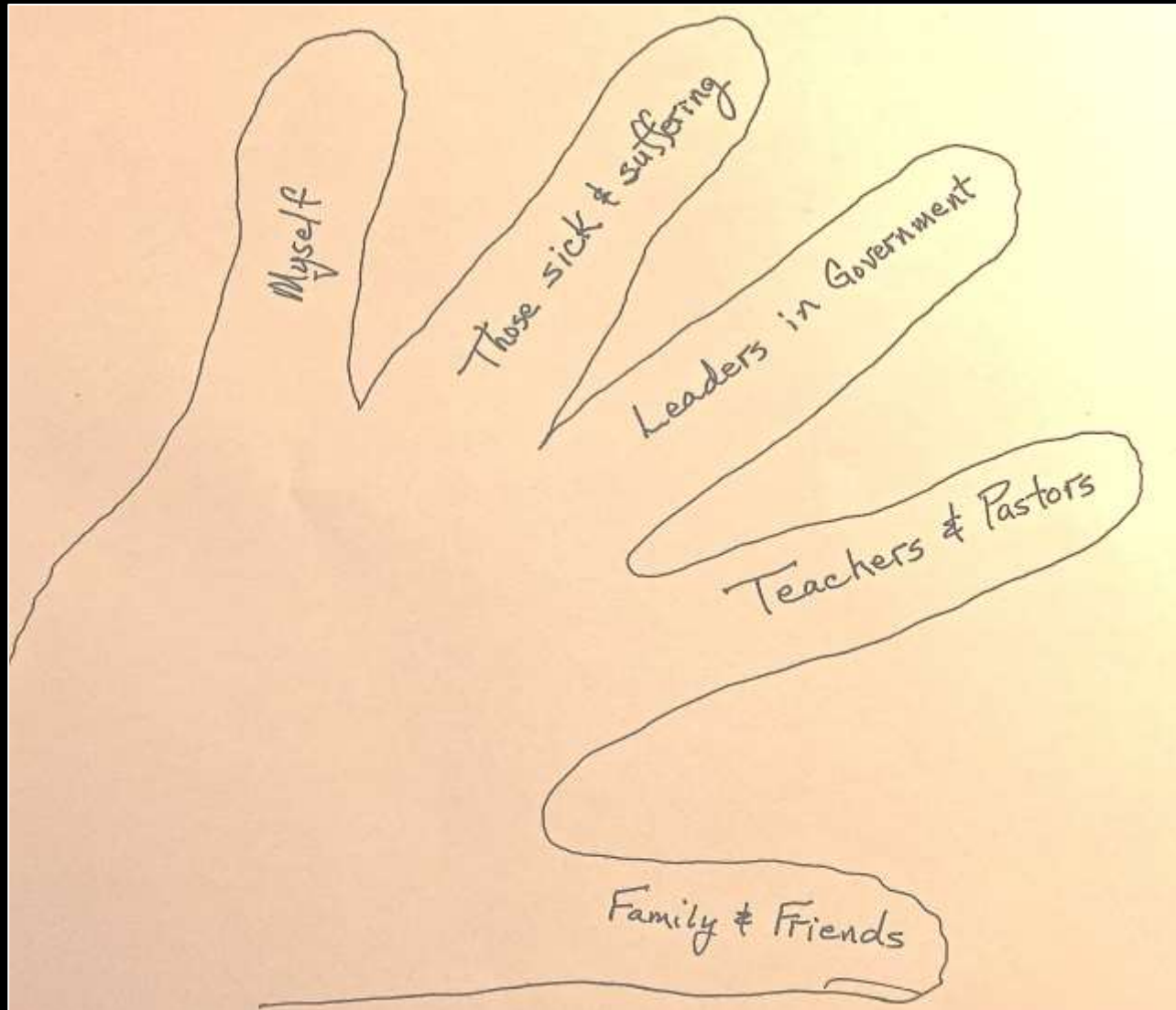
Each one take a prayer rock and tell one thing about it.

# FINISHING THE MEAL

When your table has finish the meal,  
clear the table and take the handouts  
for the prayer experience

(parents let the young people tell you  
what they learned while we wait to  
start)

# FIVE FINGER PRAYER





# THANK YOU GOD

Thank you God, for hearing our prayer for ....

Final: Loving God, we thank you for hearing these prayers that we offer to you in Jesus name.

# THE BLESSING

You are our beloved  
(son/daughter/grandson  
/granddaughter)—and we bless  
you now in the name of the  
Father and the Son and the  
Holy Spirit. AMEN.

# DISMISSED WITH BLESSING

Children dismissed first

Youth to youth program

Adults to reflection groups