

Forest of the Church

Rooting down, stretching out, branching out.

Nutshell:

A song of connection with the wider church. You know, for the kiddos.

Songleader's notes:

One theme of John 15 is being connected with Jesus like branches of a vine to the vine itself.

How do you connect with Jesus? (Spiritual practices like as prayer, Bible reading, service, silence, journaling, labyrinth walking, social action, worship, music).

Another New Testament image of connection is Paul's metaphor of the body: the church is like a body with many diverse parts; we all belong to one another. (Rom 12.4-5, I Cor 12.12-26)

How to lead it:

Use repetition to teach the song, inventing hand actions for the *rooting down*, *stretching up* and *reaching out* parts. Turn up the speed for to make it extra fun and unforgettable!

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The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols (D, G, A) are placed above the staff at various points. The lyrics are: "We're the for-est of the church! Root-ing down, _____ stretch-ing up, _____ branch-ing out, _____ out, _____ out, out, out! We're the for-est of the church! Root-ing down, _____ stretch-ing up, _____ branch-ing out, _____ out, _____ out, out, out! Our roots grow deep _____ to hold us strong in God Our branch-es reach to hold the world with love _____". The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some measures containing triplets of eighth notes. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font.

D G A

We're the for-est of the church! Root-ing down, _____ stretch-ing up, _____ branch-ing

D A D A D D

out, _____ out, _____ out, out, out! We're the for-est of the church! Root-ing

G A D A D A D

down, _____ stretch-ing up, _____ branch-ing out, _____ out, _____ out, out, out! Our

D G A

roots grow deep _____ to hold us strong in God Our branch-es reach to hold the world with love _____

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We're the for-est of the church! Root-ing down, stretch-ing up,

