



Lesson
46

4s-K

PARABLE OF THE FARMER AND THE SEED

July 5 & 6

GOD GROWS US



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Jesus used many stories, called parables, to teach people something bigger about who Jesus is and how he wants us to live. In this parable, Jesus tells a story of a farmer who scatters seed on different types of soil as a comparison to how different people respond to God's Word. Some seeds fall on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns or in good soil. The soil represents our heart and the seeds represent God's Word.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God wants us our hearts to be like the good soil. He wants us to hear His Word, try to understand it, let it grow in our hearts and allow it to bear good fruit.

Matthew 13:1-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Faith Foundations Class
Mondays (July 7, 14 & 21)
6:30pm, Monument Campus

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Farmer Pete



KEY VERSE:

"The Word became a human being.
He made his home with us. We have
seen his glory."

John 1:14, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

PB&J DRIVE

This month, our mission is something sticky and sweet! We get to be big helpers and bring peanut butter and jelly to help families get ready for school.

Our church friends—called the ACTS ministry—share what we bring with kids and families right here in our community, and YOU get to be a part of it.

From now until August 2nd & 3rd, bring peanut butter and jelly to help share God's love with those in need!



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God Grows Us!

Help kids connect relationally and to the daily lesson by participating in the Bag of Wonder activity together.

Bag of Wonder: Flower

SAY:

We are going to take turns passing around this Bag of Wonder! It has something inside that helps us think about our lesson today. You can hold it, smell it, shake it, touch it...but no peeking inside! What do you think it could be? You each get 1 guess!

DO:

Pass the Bag of Wonder around until each child has had a turn holding it and guessing what's in the bag. Offer hints to help the kids guess the item.

SAY:

I *wonder* why this item is in our Bag of Wonder today! Our lesson is about how **God Grows Us**. This true story comes from the Bible in **Matthew 13:1-23!** (*Open your Bible to show the kids the verse is in the Bible then read the explanation below*).

CONNECTION: Just like this flower, God wants us to grow too. We do this by reading our Bible and spending time with Him. When we spend time with God, He can grow in our hearts just like a seed planted on good soil.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who is our story about today?

Jesus, a farmer, & us

2. What is the problem?

The farmer planted seeds on three different types of soil

3. What will God do?

The only seeds that grew big and strong were planted on good soil - just like God's Word grows us when we have hearts open to God

Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Mini Book

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: mini book, God statement sticker, crayons/markers



DO:

Pass out one mini book per child. Have them decorate and color their mini books. Read the story as they decorate, or have them take turns reading the story to the group.



SAY:

Today we get to learn about how God grows us! He wants us to learn from His Word (the Bible) and to let it grow in our hearts. Let's make a craft to remind us of the story we will learn about today.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Help Me Live in Step

SONG 2: Where Would I Be



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you take God's Word and hide it in your heart! May you see God grow you because He loves you!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God Grows Us!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: none



SAY:

Jesus used this parable to teach an important lesson about listening and believing God's Word. The farmer who scattered seed on different types of soil is like how different people respond to God's Word. Some seeds fall on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns or in good soil. The soil represents our heart and the seeds represent God's Word. God wants us to hear His Word, try to understand it, let it grow in our hearts and allow it to bear good fruit. God grows us!



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***God grows us!***
 - ***Remember in our story today how the seed that was planted in good soil, was watered and got sunlight grew strong?***
 - ***When we spend time talking to God and learning from God's Word, God grows each of us, just like that seed!***
 - ***Let's practice growing with God right now.***
 - Invite kids to curl up into a tight ball like a seed. Then have leaders walk around to each kid and pretend to pour water on them as you say, "God loves you." Then, have the kids slowly start to grow taller and taller.
 - ***How can you practice letting God grow you this week?*** Let a few kids share.
 - ***God grows us!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY:

May you take God's Word and hide it in your heart! May you see God grow you because He loves you!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus, a farmer, & us

2. What was the problem?

The farmer planted seeds on three different types of soil

3. What did God do?

The only seeds that grew big and strong were planted on good soil - just like God's Word grows us when we have hearts open to God

4. Why does this matter to me?

I can listen and trust in God's Word to grow me and help me bear good fruit in my life

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can read God's Word every day; I can talk to my grownup about the Bible; I can share God's Word with others



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing their parent the announcement card and the weekly **Lesson Card**.