



Lesson 54

2s & 3s

I (JESUS) AM THE VINE

August 29 & 30

GOD GROWS US



LESSON GOAL:

Background: In the Old Testament, God asked the Jewish people to slow down each season and celebrate the work He was doing in their lives. We call this Remember & Celebrate.

Lesson Goal: For kids to spend time reflecting on and celebrating the ways God has grown us over this past season!

John 15: 1-17



KEY VERSES *from this quarter:*

"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free."

Mark 10:45, NIRV

"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."

Ephesians 6:10, NIRV

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

John 10:14, NIRV

KEY VERSE *for today:*

I am the Vine. You are the branches If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me..

John 15:5, NIRV



25
min

CHECK-IN

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



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.



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.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!



DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.



DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

15
min

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.



MAKE: God Grows Us Plant

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

Supplies: 5oz cup, soil, seeds, God statement sticker



SAY:

Today we learned that Jesus helps us grow! Just like this little seed will grow into a plant, God helps us grow to love Him and love others.



DO:

Help each child fill their cup with soil and plant the seed. Add water and place the "God Grows Us" sticker on the cup. Encourage kids to take their plant home and remember that just as their seed will grow, God helps us grow when we stay connected to Jesus.



CONNECT: Feasts & Festivals



Help kids understand the value of looking back and remembering what God has done in their lives and celebrating His goodness throughout history.



SAY:

Today, we want to take time to Remember & Celebrate! What are some special things you like to celebrate? (**examples: birthdays, holidays, getting good grades in school, winning sports events**) Why do you like to celebrate these things? (**allow kids to respond**) We celebrate things that are important to us or have a special meaning in our lives. Today, we're celebrating God and what He does for us. It's called Remember & Celebrate.



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 transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



Craft Example



15
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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 you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video (Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s)



SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!



DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

SONG 1: Jesus Loves Me

SONG 2: Rejoice in the Lord

WORSHIP RESPONSE: Thank You Lord for Making Me



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

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.

Supplies: None

God helps us grow! Just like a tiny seed grows into a plant, God helps us learn and grow to be more like Him. Let's do an activity to remember that God grows us. ***Invite kids to curl up on the ground like a little seed. Now pretend to "water" the kids with God's Word. As they get "watered," kids can slowly stand up and grow taller! God grows us!***



BLESSING

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

May you continue let God grow you as you spend time with Him! He loves you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: Leaf



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton is holding a tiny leaf.** What do you have there, Hamilton? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** You brought this leaf to show us how you've been growing plants at your house? That's awesome! And it reminds me of our story for today - it's about how God grows us! Would you like to join us for it? **Hamilton nods.** If you're ready to hear our Bible story, can you wiggle your ears with me? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

Today is a very special day! It's Remember & Celebrate! We get to pause and celebrate who God is and what we've learned about Him lately! Today we're going to focus on how **God grows us!** Can you say that with me, friends? **God grows us!**

Jesus told a story about a vine and branches. A vine is a big plant, and branches grow from it. Jesus said, "I am the vine. You are the branches."

Branches stay connected to the vine so they can grow big and strong! If a branch stays close, it grows fruit. **Let's all pretend to grow into a big plant!**

Jesus was teaching us something special! When we stay close to God, He helps us grow - just like a branch grows on a vine! **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** That's a great example, Hamilton! Hamilton said God has grown him in being kind to his friends even when it's hard!

When we stay close to Jesus, **God grows us!** Each of the things we've learned about God help us grow in our relationship with Him! That's truly something to remember and celebrate.

15
min

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.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the kids remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing the hand motions.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **God Grows Us!** Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

Use simple hand motions as you say the God Statement together.



ACTIVITY- God Grows Us Vine Activity

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Paper leaves (1 per child), poster of a vine



SAY:

Today, we talked about the way God grows us like a vine and branches. This is a picture of a vine but it's missing the leaves that grow out of it! Each of us gets to think of a way God can grow us as we add a leaf to the vine!



DO:

Invite the kids to help add paper leaves to the branches on the vine poster one at a time. As each child adds to the vine, encourage them by saying things like:

"God helps us grow in kindness!"

"God helps us grow in love!"

"God helps us grow strong!"

15
min

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



CHAT & CHEW

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



Supplies: Pretzel sticks (10 sticks per child), fruit snacks (1 package per child), sanitizing wipes



SAY:

Today, we learned that **GOD GROWS US!** To celebrate all we've been learning for the last few months, we've got a special snack that's also an activity to help us remember that God grows us!

Pass out the following items to each child:

- 1 hand sanitizing wipe (to use before touching/eating snack)
- 1 vine & branch placemat
- 10 pretzel sticks
- 1 package of fruit snacks

Before you eat your snack, use your placemat to build the vine & branches! I am going to list ways that God can help our "fruit" grow! As I list each thing, you can eat each part of your snack!

CHAT & CHEW QUESTION: How does God help our "fruit" grow?

Examples: praying, being quiet and listening to God, reading our Bible, going to church, being kind to each other, helping others, worshipping God, etc.

5
min

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 Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.