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| **DAY 1: Getting Planted** **3-6 Small Groups** | **Relevant Bible Scripture to Read** |
| Matt 13:1-8, 18-23Matt 13: 31-32 |
| **Teaching Point** | **Equipment** |
| God’s love is for everyone, it is our choice to be open to Him. | DiceBibleWorkbooksPens/PencilsSoil pictures/cardsSeedsTree picture |
| **\* Game - Get to know you Dice game** |
| Pass the dice around the circle, each child rolls the dice, says their name and then answers the question based on the number they rolled. 1=Favourite colour, 2=What they had for breakfast, 3=If they visit any place, where would they go, 4=Something they have done over the school holidays, 5=Least favourite food, 6= What do you want to be when you grow up? |
| **Teaching Spot** | **\* Memory Verse** |
| **🡪 MAKING CONNECTIONS****\* ASK**: *a. Where did Ben Grylls land when he jumped out of the helicopter and who did he meet?* *b. Have you ever planted a garden? What do you need?*Amy told Ben a story about seeds and how they need good soil to grow big and strong like the tree in her garden. The story Amy told is from the bible, God’s word to us. It was one of the stories that Jesus told people to teach about God called a Parable. These are stories with extra meanings.***ACTIVITY-*** *Match the different elements of the parable with what they mean as a group.***REINFORCE:** The seed in Amy’s story is the good news about Jesus that he came to die for us and forgive us because of God’s GREAT love for us. He took our punishment of sin so we didn’t have to and we can now be friends with him forever.**ASK:** How do we be the good soil in the story?**EXPLAIN:** This little seed (show seed) doesn’t look like much, but it grows into a big tree when it’s planted in good soil. The good soil are the people who accept God’s love by believing in Jesus and what he has done for us and who want Jesus to be in their life as their friend! Our friendship with God isn’t just a one off thing, its made to last forever and grow stronger and stronger as we get older, like this seed turning into this big tree (show picture of tree).What stopped the seed from growing in some of the soils?Not understanding the importance of Jesus, not having deep roots, or distracted by other things.**🡪 SO WHAT?****ASK:** *Is God’s love for everyone? Why do you think God allows us to choose to be his friend?***EXPLAIN:** God’s love is for everyone. We get to choose to let God’s love grow in our hearts. God wants you to WANT to be His friend and the more you get to know God, the more you will want Him in your life because he is the BEST. He created you, but you still have a choice. Have you ever been forced to be someone’s friend? ***WORKBOOK PAGE –*** *Refer to the invitation from God.***ASK**: *What do you think are the best things about letting God plant his love in your heart?* **🡪 GROWING DEEPER****ACTIVATION:** Ask the children to close their eyes. Tell them to picture themselves like the soil in the story. What does it look like? Now God is coming from the distance and he is a farmer. What does he look like? What is his face like? He comes, bends down and is doing something with the soil. What is he doing? Now he is throwing His seeds over the soil. They get planted deep and start to grow into flowers. What colour are your flowers?**SHARE:** Ask the children to share what they saw.As the kids share you can speak God’s life over them based on the flower they saw. Eg I think God showed you a yellow flower because he has made you happy and full of joy. He loves that about you!**FINAL STATEMENT:** God’s love is for everyone! You can choose this week to grow your friendship with Jesus.***WORKBOOK PAGE* –** Get to know you page | *‘*Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.’**Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)**Make up your own actions to the memory verse with your small group e.g. join hands together for ‘trust’ |
| **Prayer**  |
| **EXPLAIN:** Prayer is when we spend time talking with and listening to God. We can pray anywhere we want because God is always with us. At Kids Games, we are going to talk to God a lot and also listen to Him. We listen to Him through others in our teaching time, by reading from His word, and by hearing his voice in the quiet. Let’s talk to him now.*Invite the children to say the prayer along with you if they want to be open to God this week at Kids Games:*Dear God,Thank you that your love is for everyone. This week at Kids Games, we want to hear from you and grow in you. We open our hearts to you God. We pray that your love grows big and strong as we learn more and experience you at Kids Games this week. Amen |
| **Teaching Tips**  |
| * Set some group expectations e.g. listening; kindness; respect for others/groups.
* Please read verses from your bible to model the importance of God’s word and where the verses come from. Children can read from visuals.
* Take the time, perhaps at the beginning of your lesson to work through the get to know you page. This is a good way to see where your children are at with their relationship with God
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| **DAY 2: Getting GROWING****3-6 Small Groups** | **Relevant Bible Scripture to Read** |
| Jeremiah 17:7-8 Psalm 1 |
| **Teaching Point** | **Equipment** |
| We can trust Jesus and His love for us | Paper for GameMemory Verse PuzzleBibleWorkbooksPens/PencilsLollies for Trust Game\*\*\*\* |
| **\* Game - Blind drawing** |
| Each child has a piece of paper. Children have to close their eyes. Say we’re going to draw a tree, but you have to draw the tree with your eyes closed and you can’t lift your pencil off the paper. First we are going to draw the trunk. Then some branches. Now the leaves. Now draw a nest. Draw a bird in the nest. The kids will get a laugh when they look at each other’s pictures at the end. |
| **Teaching Spot** | **\* Memory Verse** |
| **🡪 MAKING CONNECTIONS****ASK***: a. What was Ben worried about in the Garden today?* *b. Was Amy worried about these things? Why not?* *c. What did Amy tell Ben about how her tree gets everything it needs?***EXPLAIN:** Yesterday we learnt that in order for a seed to grow, it firstly needs good soil to grow in.Today Amy told us that’s not the only thing a tree needs to grow big and strong. It needs to have deep roots that can continually drink up the water that helps it grow. Just like the water provides the tree with what it needs to grow, our friendship with God grows when we trust in Him and spend time with Him. Trusting Jesus is like being a tree with deep roots. **🡪 SO WHAT?****ASK*:*** *What does it mean to trust someone?****ACTIVITY-*** *Let the children answer before leading the children through this simple trust activity to show its about BELIEVING and then RELYING ON someone. Show them a bag of lollies (something small like gummy bears) and say that they can have one of these right now OR if they wait 30 seconds, they can have something even better but do not show them what it is. Based on what the kid’s reactions, talk about those who waited meant that they TRUSTED you were telling the truth. You may want to also get one kid to volunteer to be caught by you to explain this concept more.***ASK*:*** *Who is someone you trust? (go around circle)*The people we trust are the people we are close to, we know well and who we know love us**READ: Jeremiah 17:7-8****ASK*:*** *Who does the bible say we can trust?***READ: John 3:16****ASK*:*** *Why can we trust God?*Because he loves us and He always keeps His promises! He has shown us how much he loves us by sending Jesus so we can be friends with Him again. The bible tells us that because he sent Jesus for us, we can trust that God will give us everything else we need too. We can trust God in the little things, but most importantly, our whole lives. *How do we know what God’s promises are?*People who want to trust Jesus with their lives read the bible because that is where God has written down his promises. He tells us how much he loves us, that he thinks we are awesome and why we can trust Him. The more we know about God and what he promises the more we want to trust in God because he love us and is always good. The bible helps us think like Jesus thinks!**SHARE:** Have a leader share a time they had to trust God for a promise.***WORKBOOK******PAGE & ACTIVITY –*** *Read the bible truths listed to the children. Get them to match the promises to the verses. Get them to pick one they feel is for them. Each child is to make a key ring using that bible verse.***🡪 GROWING DEEPER****EXPLAIN:** We can trust Jesus with our lives because he loves us and is always there for us. We can ask Him to help us with things that make us afraid or scared because he cares for us. ***PRAYER ACTIVITY –*** *Lead the children through the hands up, hands down exercise.***FINAL STATEMENT: We can trust Jesus because he loves us. Trusting Jesus is like a tree that has deep roots, we become stronger and grow closer to God. A tree with deep roots stays strong in a storm and winds. Trusting Jesus keeps us keep strong when we are worried or scared** | *‘*Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.’**Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)**Make the memory verse puzzle together. Have the group read it out loud doing different voices (ie quiet, high pitched, singing etc). Each time they read it take away 2 or 3 cards (you can get a group member to choose which ones) until eventually there is none left. |
| **\* Prayer**  |
| Dear God,Thank you that you know everything about us. Thank you that you want us to grow strong in your love. Help us to trust in you and your love for us.AmenAsk if a child would also like to pray for the group. |
| **Teaching Tips** |
| - A child may share times when they have trusted God but God “didn’t help them”. Tell the children that God is good and he knows what we need. Even though we may not understand it, God does, and he always has good things planned for us. **-** Have you sent postcards to your kids yet!? |

**3-6 Groups**

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| **DAY 3: Getting FRUITFUL** | **Relevant Bible Scripture to Read** |
| John 15 |
| **Teaching Point** | **Equipment** |
| Trusting Jesus looks like being close to Him. Bearing fruit is seeing the Holy Spirit’s life in us. | Memory Verse PosterBookmark materialsBibleWorkbooksPens and Pencils |
| **Game- 1-2-3 Look!** |
| Everyone closes their eyes and lowers their heads, Leader says “1-2-3-Look!” As the leader calls "look," the children look up at one specific person. If that person is looking back at him/her, both players are out. If that person is looking at a different person, the children put their heads back down and wait for the next call of "1-2-3 Look." Continue the game and eventually you'll be left with two people and the game is over. |
| **Teaching Spot** | **\* Memory Verse** |
| **🡪 MAKING CONNECTIONS****ASK**: *a*. *What was Ben Grylls trying to find in the Garden today?* b. *What was Amy’s reason for having fruit in her garden?* **c.** *Who has ever had some cut flowers in a vase at home? How long do they last?***EXPLAIN:** We have been learning that for a seed to grow and produce fruit and flowers, it needs good soil and deep roots that go into water. It also needs to **stay** in the soil. If we cut it off or pull it out, it will eventually die. This is like us with God. We need to stay, remain, in Jesus to keep growing and be all God has called us to be.**READ:** John 15:1**🡪 SO WHAT?*****WORKBOOK PAGE–*** *Have the children fill out a profile about their best friend.* We know about our best friends because we spend time with them. Jesus can be our best friend. Trusting Jesus looks like being close with Him and spending our lives getting to know Him. **READ: John 15:15****ASK**: *What sort of things do you do with your best friend?****ACTIVITY–*** *In pairs, get the kids to face each other and one person has to try copy the other as a mirror image.***EXPLAIN:** Remaining in Jesus just looks like a friendship that keeps getting stronger and stronger, like a growing tree. When we are friends with someone, we know what they like, what they don’t like, who they are and how they act. We can do all those things we mentioned early with Jesus too. But because he is also God, he is better then any other friend. He helps us be all we were made to be. He brings out our best. Our friendship with Jesus grows, and the more time we spend with Him and get to know Him, the more we begin to look and act like Jesus just like in that activity we just did.**ASK**: *How do we know what Jesus is like?***EXPLAIN:** We have the bible that tells us what Jesus was like when we came to earth. He showed us what God is like. And now, when we are friends with Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit to live in and with us. He reminds us what God is like and the person God created US to be. When we let the Holy Spirit work in our lives, we change as a person, like a tree that produces fruit. The Holy Spirit, is God and is very real and makes us loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and full of self control. These are what we call the fruits of the Spirit.***WORKBOOK******PAGE*** *–* Have the children complete the tree showing when our roots are in Jesus’ love, we produce a special kind of fruit.**🡪 GROWING DEEPER\* ASK*:*** *How do we spend time with Jesus?*Like Amy, we can hang out with Jesus like a friend. This may look different then your other friends because you can’t see Jesus like you can see people. But because we always is, we can help Him and he talks to us through His Spirit. The number one thing God wants is to just hang out with you- do you want to be with him?**ACTIVATION:** Get children to picture their secret place with Jesus: Ask them to close their eyes and picture Jesus in front of them. What is he doing? You notice around you is a garden. This is your secret place with God. What does the garden look like? **FINAL STATEMENT:** Trusting Jesus looks like being a best friend with Him. Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to live in us so we can look like Jesus too and have good fruit. | ‘Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.’**Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)**Place the memory verse poster in the middle of the circle. As a group, try to read out the memory verse to the end but you can only say one word at a time, one person at a time. If two people try say the same word, you must start from the beginning of the verse again. They are not allowed to go in order or make hand actions.HINT: Eye contact is key! |
| **Prayer**  |
|  Thank you Jesus that you are close and you want to be our best friend. We want to be like you Jesus! Thanks for showing us our place where we can hang out.Amen. |
| **Teaching tips** |
| - Keep clarifying if what you are saying is making sense to the kids. Allow space for kids to ask questions. |

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| **DAY 4: MEETING THE GARDENER****3-6 Small Groups** | **Relevant Bible Scripture to Read** |
| John 3:16Ephesians 2:10 |
| **Teaching Point** | **Equipment** |
| Jesus has showed how much He loves us. Each of us has a heart where we can meet with Jesus each day and see Him grow in our lives. | BibleWorkbooksPens and PencilsMemory Verse posterStory Cards |
| **\* Game - Hand Clap Games** |
| Everyone lies on their stomachs, facing inwards in a circle. Interlock your hands and face them flat down on the floor. Go around the circle by creating a tapping wave. One tap of the hand keeps the wave going in the same direction. A double tap changes the direction. If a person’s hand moves out of turn or takes too long, that hand is eliminated. The game is over when there is two people left. |
| **Teaching Spot** | **\* Memory Verse** |
| **🡪 MAKING CONNECTIONS****\* ASK**: *a*. What has Ben Grylls learnt this week from being in Amy’s Garden? b. What did each tree in the story want to be and what did they become? ***ACTIVITY****:* *Have the children sort out the pictures from the story in order.* **EXPLAIN:** This story tells us about the birth, life and death of Jesus. Jesus was born as a baby just like you and me, but he was also God’s son. When he grew up he started teaching and showing everyone about God’s love. He did miracles like healing people and stopping storms in the ocean. He then died on a cross and rose again. He did this so we can be friends with Him. He did everything He could to be your friend and that's what needed to happen.**READ:** **John 3:16****🡪 SO WHAT?****RECAP:** This week we have been learning that God wants to plant his seed, see you grow in Him and bear fruit. This begins with believing this good news about Jesus, that's the seed. Trusting in God looks like being close to him as a friend and that is how we grow. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we look and act like Him and that like when a tree makes fruit. God wants us to share this news so more people can be friends with Him.**SHARE:** Have a leader or two share about when Jesus’ seed was planted (when they choose to be a Christian), how they have been growing in Jesus and now why they are at Kids Games (the fruit!). **ASK:** *Did the trees become what they wanted to?***READ:** **Ephesians 2:10****EXPLAIN:** God says you are special and unique. He calls all of us His most loved creation. He has planned some amazing things for you to do in life, just like those trees. He loves our dreams! And He wants to use them, maybe not exactly the way we thought, but God is good and His plans for us are always good. Being friends with Jesus is so exciting! We get to be a part of God’s story and help Him share His love to all his people.**READ: Ephesians 3:20*****WORKBOOK******PAGE*** *–* *What are your dreams?***🡪 GROWING DEEPER****ACTIVATION:** Get children to picture themselves in their secret place again. Ask them to tell Jesus if they want to be His friend, want to be closer or tell Him they are still not sure. What does Jesus say/do back? Ask the kids to share. Remind them they can do this whenever, because Jesus is always with them. This is one way they can spend time with Jesus. ***WORKBOOK PAGE-*** *Children to fill out the ‘I choose to grow’ prayer box and secret garden page.* **FINAL STATEMENT:** Jesus has showed how much He loves us. Each of us has a heart where we can meet with Jesus each day and see Him grow in our lives. This doesn’t finish at Kids Games. Your friendship with Jesus keeps going. | ‘Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.’**Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)**See if any of your kids know the memory verse off by heart.Have a go doing the game from yesterday again. |
| **Prayer**  |
| Thank you Jesus that you came and died for us so we can all be your friends. We thank you that you have a plan for us and we get to be a part of it forever.Amen.*If kids accept Jesus, have them repeat this:*Dear Heavenly Father,Thank you that you sent Jesus to die for me so I can be your friend. I want to be your friend today so I can grow to be all you have planned me to be.Amen**.** |
| **Teaching Tips** |
| * Make sure you pray individually with the children who accept God’s gift. Don’t push it. Some children will not be ready, and that’s okay! Make sure another leader is supervising the rest of the group while individual children are being prayed for.
* Personally invite your group of children to church and explain the importance of growing in our relationship with God.
* Take time to answer any questions they may have
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**Workbook Activities 3-6**

**Day 1**

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**Page 2** -

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**Day 2**

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**Day 3**

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**Day 4**

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**Page 2** -

Also need:

Memory Verse Cards
Dice
Seeds
Tree Picture

Soil Pictures
Tale of Three Trees Pictures
Key Ring Materials

Memory Verse poster

Memory Game