



Kids Games 2015 Teaching Expanded

Find out what happens when **Ben Grylls** - world famous adventurer - airdrops accidentally into an environment he has never experienced before - Amy's Secret Garden. In exploring Amy's garden Ben Grylls learns what it means to get planted and get growing with Jesus - the Gardener - just like a seed grows into a mighty tree. When our hearts are open we can put our trust in Jesus and when we remain in His love, we grow with Jesus more each day to be all who God called us to be.

Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)

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.



Teaching Aim:

God's love is for everyone; it is our choice to be open to Him.

Drama:

Ben Grylls lands in Amy's Secret Garden and begins his usual survival routine. Amy explain that is not needed as the Head Gardener gives her everything she needs. To explain why her tree is so big, she tells the parable of the sower and the seeds.

Bible Teaching:

Matt 13:1-8, 18-23, The Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

"The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest..."

Expanded Teaching Notes:

Please Note: This Teaching Time will be shorter as there is an extended drama for Day 1, telling the parable of the Sower and the seeds.

1. Begin by reviewing the drama and relating it to the passage (briefly)
2. Discuss the **word about Jesus as a seed.**

What is in a seed?

(Show some different types of seeds or pictures of on the big screen).

It is the potential for a whole tree- all the genetic information for a big flourishing plant according to the type of seed. So God's word as a seed contains the potential for us to grow up into fully mature Christians to have eternal life with God

3. Discuss **each type of soil:**

a. **On the path:** (Use a visual of sprinkling some seeds onto gravel)

The seed is left exposed on the surface, nothing for it to sink into, no moisture to open the seeds. Jesus explains that this is when someone hears the good news about Jesus but does not understand it, so the message is snatched away from them.

Important to address: What do we need to understand? a) What is the good news? - that Jesus has come to restore our broken relationship with God. b) That the news is for all of us. We are all included.

b. **On the rocky ground:**

The seed falls into some cracks between the rocks where it finds a little bit of soil to start growing. This is someone who hears the good news about Jesus and are happy about it, but they don't keep growing and understanding more about God and so if some trouble comes into their life or people criticise them for believing in God they don't have any strength and they fall away and give up on Jesus.

Maybe give an example here of how that might happen.

c. Seed falling **among the weeds.**

(Be good to have a prepared example)

This is someone who believes the good news about Jesus and accepts Jesus into their heart, but they let other things crowd out His voice in their lives. eg they are busy (too busy to read the bible or go to church or talk to God) or they allow worries to take over their thinking, so that they crowd out God's voice in their hearts.

They may be preoccupied with things eg toys, clothes, computers (materialism) and they let these things be the most important to them ie what they spend all their time and interest on. These seeds (people) never grow as big or strong as God planned them to be.

d. In the **good soil.**

(Have prepared example of a healthy plant)

Seed falling on good soil is someone who hears the good news about Jesus and believes and trusts in him.

And then makes the choices that allow them to keep growing.

Taking time to spend it with God, read the bible, go to Sunday school or scripture, youth. These people keep understanding more about how God loves them, the power of having Jesus as your special friend. It is about letting the Holy Spirit work to make you more like Jesus and have a close relationship with him.

That's the kind of soil that is the best and makes the healthiest plants that have a good crop of fruit or flowers or new seed!

Make the point that getting a healthy plant takes **ongoing care** not once off. eg watering sun, feeding, weeding (to begin to touch on following days)

5.To Hit:

Why does Jesus tell us all this about what might happen when we hear the good news about him. Do we have any **choice** about what happens? Yes.

Jesus is telling us so that we can make sure our hearts are the right kind of soil for the good news to take root and grow.

eg we might have been at Kids Games, Sunday school or scripture before and believed in Jesus, but haven't been able to grow up as a Christian. Why? Other distractions. Not learning more about him by going to Sunday school or kids club. Forgetting to pray etc.

Truth is we can have a choice in what sort of soil our heart is.

What sort of soil will we be as we hear the good news about Jesus and God's kingdom this week?

Small Group Direction:

1. Go through the soils in picture form
2. Pray for an open heart for this week
3. Activation: Imagine yourself as soil and farmer coming along...

Day 2-



Teaching Aim:

We can trust Jesus and His love for us.

Drama:

Ben Grylls is still in survivor mode, still trying to make shelter and find water. He is disconcerted to find that in the garden, all these things are provided. Amy comes along, curious to see what he is doing, and explains that all the things he's worried about are provided by the Gardener. He is disconcerted to find that in the garden, all these things are provided. Amy uses the tree as an example of living close to the stream and it provides what the tree needs.

Bible Teaching: Jeremiah 17:7-8, Psalm 1

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water.”

Expanded Teaching Notes:

1. Bring out the seeds planted in the talk yesterday and the healthy plant from the good soil part of yesterday's talk.

Show some time-lapse photography to see how seeds sprout and start to grow. As a start we need to have the good news about Jesus planted in good soil.

But that's just the beginning. What do plants need to grow?

2. Jeremiah 17 talks about water.

Water provides protection from the heat - leaves remain green ie it stays healthy and doesn't wither when its hot. It is protected from drought - so can still bear the fruit it is meant to. Another image of staying healthy. If the plant is sick or stressed it wont put the energy into making fruit.

3. *So as Christians who want to grow strong we need to have a great water supply. In Jeremiah 17 reading it says its best to be near a stream.*

That makes sense - not just relying on someone remembering to water you every now and then. eg sunday school every couple of weeks. What is best is a CONSTANT supply. That's always there and that your roots can tap straight into and can drink form CONTINUALLY not every now and then.

Could possible use the image of pot plants vs the plants that grow in the garden. Maybe can find a picture of two of the same types of tree - one growing much better than the other because of a good water supply.

What might the heat or drought from the reading be? Difficult times we go through or wrong thinking about ourselves, times of stress or pressure.

4. Use the building up wall hanging tree picture as discuss trusting in Jesus.

(probably could reuse old one and take apart)

What is our water supply? TRUSTING in Jesus: Putting our confidence in Him (Jer 17) and delighting and meditating on His ways (Ps 1) ie learning about how to live life with Jesus. How to keep in step with His Spirit, Having our thinking transformed as He renews our minds. This is best explained with intimacy language needed, being best friends with Jesus.

ie it means choosing Jesus' way of going about life rather than just relying on ourselves.

Trust What?

That what he says about us is true.
That what he says about the world is true
That what he says about the future is true.

note: to trust it we need to know what God says about all these things.

(Will need to choose which of these to discuss. As the thrust of our theme is intimacy with God and the garden of our heart might best to focus on trusting what he says about us.)

End in K-2 by teaching tree song.

Small Group Direction:

1. Wherever you are, you can get closer to God
2. What is trust? What does it look like?
3. Make key rings of an identity verses.
4. Activation: Imagine Jesus in front of you and you have something in your hand you would like to trust Jesus with. What is it? When you give it over, what does he do with it? What does he now do? Does he say something? Give you something?
5. When we trust Jesus with things, he gives us great things in return because our hands are now empty to receive.

Day 3-



Teaching Aim:

Trusting Jesus looks like being close to Him. Bearing fruit is seeing Jesus' Holy Spirit life in us.

Drama:

BG continues to be in survival mode, today obsessed with finding food in all the most difficult ways. In fact, the kids can see that food is hanging all around him. Amy explains that the fruit comes because her garden is alive and healthy.

Bible Teaching: John 15:1-17, Galatians 5:22-25

“Yes I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in him, will produce much fruit.”

Expanding Teaching Notes:

1. Have two flowers - one is attached to the plant in a pot, the other a fresh cut flower.

Can cover over the bottoms initially so they cannot see difference and ask kids to tell the difference: one is alive and one is dead.

Explain that even if it looks alive so far the cut one is already dead and it will soon start to show it because its not connected to it life source any more.

2. Saw yesterday we need a continual supply of Jesus to grow as a Christian - like the stream next to a flourishing plant. We get this by trusting in God. But we don't have that continual supply, we have trouble trusting if we don't stay connected to him.

That's why he says "remain in me"

Remain in what?

a. Remain in his love: knowing how he loves us. This produces peace.

b. Remain in his word: John 6:63-64, so we know and are reminded about what is really important and about who we are in Him.

c. Remain in his presence: when you are best friends you spend time with each other. When we spend time with Jesus we become closer to Him.

3. Result of remaining

Galatians 5 result of overflowing love.

So we can be all God has called us to be.

Go back to tree from yesterday and add fruit. Younger kids can just have the fruits of the spirit as example of the good things that are produced.

The older kids can go a bit deeper by looking at the 'root' behind the 'fruit' and that its for our sakes AND others.

Eg. Because I know I can trust Jesus to help me, I have JOY in my life. This makes my life

better, and I encourage the people around me too.

Because I know Jesus loves me no matter what, I have PEACE in my life. This makes my life better as I'm not worried, and I help people see the Prince of Peace...

Small Group Direction:

1. Older kids: Two halves of tree good fruit bad fruit
2. What does it mean to remain in Jesus? LOVE. FRIENDSHIP. SPENDING TIME. Will use intimacy (best friends) language.
3. God doesn't want us to just survive, but thrive and be all who he wants us to be. What is that?
4. Activation:

Day 4-



Teaching Aim:

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.

Drama:

BG is finally starting to enjoy everything that Amy's garden provides. He reflects on what he's learned by living in the garden - we can be planted right, can grow, and produce great fruit by trusting Jesus. Amy tells the Tale of the Three Trees to share what Jesus has done, and how that transforms our lives. Amy shares who the gardener is.

Bible Teaching: Gospel Message!

"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Expanding Teaching Notes:

This day has a focus on the gospel story using the elements of the Tale of the Three Trees:

1. Jesus was born into this world as a baby. God himself became human so he could step in and take our place. He knows what its like to grow up, to be sad, to be happy just like us. He was born into humble circumstances.
2. Jesus showed us what God is really like. He didn't send a list of rules for us to obey. Instead he CAME and showed us the truth about God, how he loves us and wants us to love Him and be his friend. He came and brought grace - blessings from God that we never earned, and that blessing starts with asking Jesus to be our friend.
3. Jesus died on the cross. He died to pay the price for our ignoring God and he didn't stay dead because he is stronger than death and he defeated the darkness that wanted to hold him and us down.

This is the good news that we have about Jesus and THAT is the seed that God scatters abroad everywhere in the world. He is looking for hearts with good soil where His good news can take root and start to grow. Has it found a place in your heart to grow and flourish just like in Amy's garden?

Each of us has a heart where we can meet with God each day and see Him grow in our lives. The seed that is planted is the good news about Jesus.

Children are given an invitation to ask him into your heart and see the garden of your heart grow.

Small Group Direction:

1. Opportunity for those to have seed planted for the first time, others to see how God wants them to grow?
2. I choose to grow prayer sheet
3. Secret place activation