

DAY 1: GETTING PLANTED K-2

Relevant Bible Scripture to Read

Matt 13:1-8, 18-23
Matt 13: 31-32

Teaching Point

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

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 toy, 2= What they had for breakfast, 3= If they could be an insect what would they be, 4= Something they have done over the school holidays, 5= Least favourite food, 6=Something they love.

Equipment

Dice
Bible
Workbooks
Pens/Pencils
Soil pictures/cards
Seeds
Tree picture

Teaching Spot

→ MAKING CONNECTIONS

- ASK:**
- Where did Ben Grylls land when he jumped out of the helicopter?
 - Who did Ben meet in the Garden?
 - Have you ever planted a garden? What do you need?
 - Ben was amazed with how big Amy's tree was. What did Amy tell Ben about her tree?

Amy told Ben a story about seeds and how they need good soil to grow big and strong like the tree in her garden.

ACTIVITY- Match the four different soils with what they mean as a group

WORKBOOK PAGE – Children are to copy these matches into their workbook page.

EXPLAIN: The story Amy told is from the bible, God's word to us. 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.

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 who want Jesus to be in their life as their friend! Our friendship with God isn't just a one off thing, it's 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).

→ SO WHAT?

ASK: Is God's love for everyone?

EXPLAIN: God's love is for everyone. We get to choose to let God's love grow in our hearts.

ASK: Why do you think God allows us to choose to be his friend?

EXPLAIN: 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.

WORKBOOK PAGE – Refer to the invitation from God.

ASK: What do you think is the best thing about asking God to plant His love in our 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?

WORKBOOK PAGE -- Ask the children to draw what they saw in their Workbook.

As the kids draw you can speak God's love 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.

Memory Verse

'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 because he is our friend. We can pray anywhere we want and we can pray whenever we want! We don't need fancy words to talk with God, but we can talk with Him like we talk with our friends. He loves us to share our thoughts with him and he loves to share His thoughts with us.

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

- 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.
- Set some group expectations. The 5L's (Look, listen, laps, legs, lips) works well for the younger kids.

DAY 2: GETTING GROWING

K-2

Relevant Bible Scripture to Read

Jeremiah 17:7-8
Psalm 1
Colossians 2:6-7

Teaching Point

We can trust Jesus and His love for us

Equipment

Paper for Game
Memory Verse Cards
Bible
Workbooks
Pens/Pencils
Key ring Materials
Stickers
Lollies 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. Now draw some branches. Now the leaves. Now draw a nest with a bird in it. Finally a tree needs good roots. Draw some roots at the bottom of the tree. The kids will get a laugh when they look at each others' pictures at the end.

Teaching Spot

→ MAKING CONNECTIONS

- ASK:**
- What was Ben worried about in the Garden today?
 - Was Amy worried about these things? Why not?
 - 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 spend time with Him. We can rely on God for what we need too.

→ SO WHAT?

ASK: What does it mean to trust someone?

ACTIVITY- Lead the children through this simple trust activity. Put a page of stickers in the middle and tell the children that you will give them all one after 10 seconds. Do it and say, 'You trusted me because you believed what I said.' Then tell them if they wait for 30 seconds they will all get a lolly but do not show them the lollies. Use this activity to explain trusting is believing that someone will do what they say. We believe when people have proved they will do what they say.

ASK: Who is someone you trust?

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! 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. Friends of Jesus, Christians, read the bible because that is how God can tell us how much he loves us, that he thinks we are awesome and why we can trust Him. It helps us to think like Jesus thinks!

WORKBOOK PAGE – Read the bible truths listed to the children, Get them to circle the one that speaks to them the most right now.

ACTIVITY – 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 strong when we are worried or scared.

Memory Verse

'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)

Lay out the memory verse cards in order. Have the group read the verse out loud doing the actions from Monday. 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.
Amen

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.
- If a child shares something that involves a child safety issue, please inform Sophie or Craig at the end of small groups
- Have you sent the children in your group a postcard? They feel so special when they receive these messages of encouragement at the end of the day. Parents also love to read the messages you send to their children!

DAY 3: GETTING FRUITFUL K-2

Relevant Bible Scripture to Read

John 15

Teaching Point

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

Equipment

Memory Verse Cards
Bible
Workbooks
Pens and Pencils

Game - Make a story

Go around the circle and get each child to contribute a sentence (or word if you want to make it harder) to create a story. You may want to record it on your phone and play it back. The kids will think it's hilarious!

Teaching Spot

→ MAKING CONNECTIONS

- ASK:**
- What was Ben Grylls trying to find in the Garden today?
 - What was Amy's reason for having fruit in her garden?
 - 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

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. 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 God's word, 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 makes yummy fruit. The Holy Spirit is God and is very real. He helps us to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and full of self-control.

WORKBOOK PAGE – Have the children complete the tree from the previous day with 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 than your other friends because you can't see Jesus like you can see your friends. But Jesus is always with us, we can feel Him with us, we can hear from Him through His word, the bible, 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.

Memory Verse

'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)

Give each child a Memory Verse Card.

WORKBOOK ACTIVITY- Get the kids to draw pictures to replace the words in the verse.

Prayer

Thank you Jesus that you are close and you want to be our best friend. We want to be like you Jesus! Help us to be like you and hear from you. Thanks for showing us our place where we can hang out with you. Amen.

DAY 4: MEETING THE GARDENER

K-2

Relevant Bible Scripture to Read

John 3:16
Ephesians 2

Teaching Point

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.

Mangers, Boats and Crosses

The children are to pick to be a manger (on their hands and feet), a boat (standing up with their hands at a point in front of them) or a cross (hands out for body to make a cross). Turn around and give them 5 seconds to pick and call out one of them. All kids doing that action are then eliminated. Keep going to there is only one kid.

Teaching Spot

→ MAKING CONNECTIONS

- ASK:**
- What has Ben Grylls learnt this week from being in Amy's Garden?
 - 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?

EXPLAIN: This week we have been learning that God wants to plant His seed in your heart, 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's 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! He wants us to be a part of what He is doing in this world.

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 & He loves when they do!

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.

Equipment

Bible
Workbooks
Pens and Pencils
Story Cards

Memory Verse

'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!

Quote the verse if you... ate breakfast this morning, took a bath last night, have brown eyes, like broccoli, made your bed today, have a sister, are wearing red, etc.

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

- Try to 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.
- The kids (and their parents) will love the messages you write in their workbooks – please take the time to do this!