

Fruit of the Spirit I
Aw... Grow Up!
Text: Psalms 1:1-3



Lesson 3

Kick Start (Pivots)

Presentation

Show each slide and go over each one to introduce the Pivot Points of the lesson. The Pivots will be called out at different points of the lesson.

Pivot Supplies

PP slide 2-4



Grow – to spring up and develop



Plant yourself and grow up!



You will be filled with the fruit of right living produced by Jesus Christ. All of those things bring glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11 NIRV –
Emphasize the bold part this week

Preparation: none

Presentation

Tell the class that we are going to name different kinds of plants (flowers, trees, bushes, garden plants, etc.) Anything is fair game that grows! This can be any kind of seed maybe one you plant in a garden or a seed you find in fruit. Let's play Name a Plant. These answers will be similar to the seed



Pivot Icebreaker Supplies

White board or chalk board
PP slide 5

answers in week one. That should make it more familiar and fun for kids to recall answers. You can vary it too by category one at a time. Kids can name vegetable plants, flowers, trees, bushes or landscape plants.

Play

Have kids raise their hands. Choose a child to answer – (kids can talk among each other - that's why it's an icebreaker, to get kids to communicate and loosen up!). As they name a plant write it down on the board. A name cannot be repeated so kids have to listen carefully and read the board.

Continue until kids can't think of any more plants. Count the number of plants on the board. Name some on the board. Ask for a show of hands of plants in their yard or neighborhood. Ask if they have helped plant any of them. Which ones are their favorites?

Tell the class that plants are pretty cool. They make the area look nice and they provide oxygen, shade and food for people, birds and other animals. Congratulate the class for the list they built!



Kick It Around

Introduce the concept of proper nutrition for growth

Preparation: If using objects, place them on the table

Presentation: (Note: dialogue in presentation is used for the PowerPoint slides. Adjust the presentation when using the objects. If possible, use both together for an even more effective presentation)

Nutrition is the way a person, animal or plant (living organism) takes in and uses food. Nutrients like vitamins, minerals and water (to name a few) help provide energy, health and growth.

(Slide 6) For a plant to grow and stay healthy it needs the proper nutrients as we said. Things like water, good soil (that provides minerals

and food) along with sunlight.

(Slide 7) In this slide the plant has withered and died in drought conditions. There has been little to no water. Look at the color of the soil compared to the first slide (Flip back to slide 6 then back to slide 7) The leaves here are dry and dead and have fallen off a tree.

Let's go to our Lesson Launch and find out what growing healthy plants have to do with healthy people!



Psalm 1:1-3

Preparation: none

Presentation

Show the slides/ PDFS and/or have kids read along in their Bibles.

(Slide 8) How many times have you been told to grow up! Usually we are told this when you've done something silly or not so smart, right? Well guess what... God wants us to grow up too – in a different way. He wants us to grow up in the spirit or have your spirit get stronger and stronger.

God doesn't want us to grow up just because He said to...He wants to bless us and show us favor so we can turn around and bless others so others will glorify God!

To be blessed means to be happy, have favor and be prosperous! Who doesn't want that with God's help? Those are good reasons to grow up, right? Let's look at our verses

Verse 1 says, "*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.*"

(Note: for the following scenarios, adjust the content to make it appropriate and applicable to your kids.)

Let's make that simpler to understand. (Choose a volunteer to come up with you)

Let's say I have not accepted the seed of the Gospel. I am not a believer and don't know God's Word.

Now _____ (Volunteer's name) has a situation. His parents told you that you can't see a movie with your friends. They said it has a lot of bad language and violence you shouldn't see. _____ is really mad and

Rampin' Up Supplies:

PP slides 6 - 7, Optional: healthy plant, green leaves, withered plant, dry leaves, container of water, sunglasses, top soil, table

Note: Any time you can use actual objects, go for it! Kids love to see and handle objects. Use the slides together with the objects for an even more effective presentation.

Lesson Launch Supplies:

PP slides 8 -15, Bible, 2 chairs, Optional: junk food (or fast wrappers, junk food packaging), nutritious food (fruit, veggies)



asked me for advice. (Begin to walk slowly with arm around volunteer talking so class can hear.)

(Teacher) Dude, that is rough! How can they tell you no? I mean all the other kids can go! You've heard bad language before...and what's wrong with a little violence? Just tell them that you are going to play ball and go to the movie anyway! That's what I do all the time. They won't ever find out...trust me. That movie is hot! You don't want to be the only kid in your class NOT to see it...dude!

(Stop and talk to class with arm around volunteer still). Should _____ (volunteer's name) follow my advice? (Allow responses) NO! Why not? (allow responses) That isn't Godly advice. That is disobedience! That movie won't help you grow more like Jesus, right? If _____ (volunteer's name) listens and does what I told him to do that is sin. But what happens if _____ rejects or refuses to listen to my bad advice? (Allow responses) Yes, God can bless him...he is blessed!

Pivot Point: Plant yourself and grow up!

Let's look at the second part of the verse. "...*stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers*" What does this mean? (Choose another volunteer, both sit on chairs - you begin to talk to the volunteer)

Hey man...what do you want to do? We could play video games, I just got _____ (name a current game that has a bad rating for adult content) or we could get on the 'net and surf around _____ (name some websites kids shouldn't be on). There is a cool site too I found that we can download some movies and games for free! It's not legit but who's gonna catch us? We got the whole summer ahead of us...beats going to church and doing all that religious stuff...man that's for wimps!

(Send volunteer back to seat) Basically the rest of that verse means hangin' out places with people you shouldn't be hangin' out with; people who will get you in trouble. People who make plans to do things that are evil or even illegal. To mock God means to disrespect God and make fun of Him, the church, Bible and anything about Christianity and believers.

If you hang around and go places with these people you will get pulled into their plans and activities. This will not help you grow to be more like Jesus! God cannot bless you or prosper you if you make choices like this!

Now...here is the good part of our Bible text! 2 "*But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*"³

God blesses those who love or delight in reading His Word (Bible), who listen to it instead of bad advice and obey what it says! Doing this they WILL stay joined to Jesus and grow more like Him! Do you see the choices we have to make every day? We can choose to be blessed or not. We can choose to grow up spiritually or not. It is up to us! **Pivot Point:** Plant yourself and grow up!

READ and FEED

Verse 3 "*He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*"

(Slide 9) God compares us to trees! When we choose to read and FEED on God's Word rather than listen to evil or ungodly counsel, when we PLANT ourselves in good situations, God says we will grow strong and be healthy. We will yield or bear good fruit that brings glory to God! And, whatever we do will prosper or have success! Look at those trees in the slide. They are alive and very healthy! They are planted right next to the water and have all they need to prosper!

Isn't that cool? Wow – now do you see why God wants us to grow up? Yes...so He can bless us. So we will be a strong and healthy "tree" that that bears fruit!

What about Me???? It's all about choices! (Use real foods, food wrappers and containers if you choose)



(Slide 10) The tree by the water in our verse today represents us feeding on God's Word. Many times in the Bible water represents God's Spirit and Word

Now, let's look at our choices. Let's compare natural nutrition to spiritual nutrition. In the natural for our bodies – we can feed on what will help us grow and what won't! What is good for us and what isn't.

(Show slides 11-14 and talk about the good and bad choices)

(Note: Emphasize balance and how it's okay to snack sometimes but if that is all we eat then our bodies can't grow up strong and be healthy).

Now let's compare that to our spiritual bodies (Slide 15) we choose who we listen to and what we feed on. Do we only listen to what is on T.V. or the internet...and do what they say is right and acceptable? Or, do we read and believe on God's word – delight in it as the verse says?

(Note: again, a lot of good stuff is on the internet and T.V....don't portray it as all evil. Kids need to weigh, balance and make choices.)

We make choices everyday where we plant ourselves. God wants us to grow up strong and healthy and to more and more like Jesus. When we make good choices and feed on God's word we will be blessed!

Pivot Point: Plant yourself and grow up!



Preparation: none

Presentation

Show the slides (or PDFS) and review the lesson and Pivots to this point

Air Time Supplies:

PP slides 16 - 27

Presentation

Show the slides (or PDFS) and review the lesson and Pivots to this point

1. What does God say we are when we obey His word? (Blessed)
2. We are not to walk in the counsel of the _____? (Wicked)
3. We are not to stand in the way of _____? (Sinners)
4. We are not to sit in the seat of _____? (Mockers)
5. What does God like us to meditate and read all day long? (His Word, Bible)
6. When we do this, what does God compare us to? (Tree planted by the water)



Pivot Verse Game Note – try this game or one of the Pivot Verse games listed on the components page if you prefer. Mix and match games each week or if you find a class favorite, stick with it! Repetition is good for memory verses. Often kids have a blast at a game and never get to play it again. Repeating a fun game is always exciting for kids.



Pivot Verse

Game Supplies:

PP slide 4, 28 sheets of paper (use paper you would be recycling as possible rather than new sheets), duct tape, permanent marker, 4 small (clean) trash cans (or boxes), masking tape, dry erase/chalk board, markers or chalk

Note: Do not discard supplies. This game is repeated next week! The only difference is that words will be changed for second part of verse.



You will be filled with the fruit of right living produced by Jesus Christ. All of those things bring glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11 NIV

Preparation

Wad each sheet of paper into a ball. Tear off a piece of duct tape (just big enough to write a word) and place a piece on one paper ball. Write the word “You” on the tape. Repeat this for the remaining 13 words for the first part of the Pivot Verse. Place the balls in one of the containers.

Repeat this for the second set of verses.

Note: Do not wad the paper into a tight ball or compress it when you add the tape – keep it loose. Only press on the tape enough to ensure it will stick to the ball.

Place the two empty containers on the floor with several feet between them

Lay a “throw line” with the masking tape about 15’- 20’ from the containers (Note: shorten or lengthen the distance according to the kids in your class. OR have two lines – one for younger kids that is closer to the container, one for older kids further away.)

Place the “filled” containers behind the “throw line”.

Select a “verse writer” for each team. (Note: They must be able to spell and write well – 2nd grade or older is best)

Divide the class into two teams

Play

Show PP slide and repeat it several times with the class. (Leave the slide displayed during the game)

The object of the game is for each team to “fill” the container with righteous fruit. The paper balls represent righteous fruit and the containers are people.

The first team member from each team must find the first word of the Pivot Verse and toss the “fruit” trying to get it in the container. If the fruit goes in the “verse writer” writes that word on the board.

The next team member finds the second word of the Pivot Verse and tosses it toward the container. Repeat this until the entire first part of the verse is written on the board.

When a ball misses the container, the thrower must retrieve the ball quickly and run it back to the next

team member in line.

NOTE: The Pivot Verse MUST be built in order!

The first team to get their Pivot Verse written on the board wins!



Kids should talk, shout, and help each other figure out which Pivot Verse word is next – As they read the verse on the board and as it is formed the words will sink into their spirit ...kind of cool, huh?

Options

Display the Pivot Verse on the Power Point slide throughout the game for the first run. Play the game WITHOUT the slide on the second run.

For larger classes – make more sets and divide into several small groups of kids

To play non-competitively or for a smaller group, play against time – shooting for the quickest time to build the verse as a group.

Activity Grades 1 – 5 Turn Over a New Leaf

Preparation

Give each child a pencil and paper plate

Distribute crayons and scissors for kids to share

Instruct kids to draw a leaf (can be any type of leaf) on the inner part of their plate that takes up as much of the inner flat surface as possible (do not draw up into the curved part of the plate)

Kids carefully cut their leaf out of the plate

Kids color their leaf one side green and the other side brown –

Important: each leaf must have one brown side and one green side

Kids write their initials on both sides of their leaf

Divide class into two teams (Have kids pick a tree name for their team - Oak Leaves, Palms, etc.)

Have teams stand on opposite sides of the room facing each other. Leave about 10' between the teams

Note: If you purchased the Relay Pack save the leaves for the relay race!

Presentation

In our Lesson Launch we learned that when you obey God's Word rather than listening to people that mock God and don't obey God, that we are like trees planted by streams of water. Our leaves don't dry up, we bear fresh fruit and all we do prospers!

Play

Call 3 people (holding their leaf) from each team to step out a few steps away from their team. They will face the other team leaving maybe 4' between them and the other team's 3 members

Count out loud to 3, each player on both teams will yell "whatever I do will prosper"

Each player then tosses their leaf (underhand) up in the air in front of them and lets it float to the ground

Compare the leaves of both teams. Are they green or brown?



Activity Grades 1 – 5

Supplies:

Paper plates (cheaper the better – one per child), green and brown (different shades of each) crayons, pencils (one per child), several pairs of kid's scissors, chalk/dry erase board, marker or chalk

You may use card stock instead of paper plates if preferred.

Score as follows:
Brown leaves = 0

Green leaves cancel the other team's green leaves out

For example – Team A has 2 green leaves; Team B has 2 green leaves - Score for round is 0



Team A has 1 green leaf; Team B has 2 green leaves – Score for round, Team B = 1 point

Team A has 3 green leaves; Team B has 1 green leaf – Score for round. Team A = 2 points

Add the points for each round and record on the board.

Play until all team members have played, a set number of rounds or to a set amount of points

Options

For larger groups, divide into more sets of teams or have more than 3 players toss each round

If all a team's players in any one round toss all green leaves, award an additional bonus +5 points

If all a team's players in any one round toss all brown leaves, subtract + 5 points from their score



Review Pivots one last time

Preparation: Remove the bulbs from the light strand

Final Spin Supplies:

Power Point slide 1-4, 28,
(Optional: Evergreen plant, branch)



Join – To connect or attach



Join to Jesus for life!



You will be filled with the fruit of right living produced by Jesus Christ. All of those things bring glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11 NIRV

Preparation: None

Presentation

Our text in verse 3 says, “*He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers*”.

(Slide 28) When we accept the seed of the Gospel, God holds us in his hand and we begin to grow. When we read God's Word everyday and obey it. When we join to Jesus and plant ourselves in good situations and the right company. When we make these kinds of good choices...God can freely bless us! We will grow strong and healthy just like a tree planted by a stream of water. We will bear fruit and bring glory to God.

What is so cool about an evergreen? Why is it names that? Because it is EVER GREEN! It is always green all year round. God wants us to be evergreens! When we plant ourselves in His word we can be!

Pivot Point: Plant yourself and grow up!

