



The Growing Seed

Lesson Aim: To know God makes us grow.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Teaches

THE WORD

Bible Story: Mark 4:26-29

What He Has Done: Jesus taught that God made the plants grow.

THE WAY

Bible Memory Verse: "Sing praises to God, sing praises." Psalm 47:6

Unit 5: The King Who Teaches—Parables 1			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
23	The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-7	Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.	To know Jesus watches over us.
24	The Growing Seed, Mark 4:26-29	Jesus taught that God made the plants grow.	To know God makes us grow.
25	The Wise Builder, Matthew 7:24-27	Jesus taught that the wise man builds his house on a rock.	To know God wants us to make wise choices.
26	The Good Shepherd, John 10:14-16	Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd.	To know we belong to Jesus.
27	The Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10	Jesus taught that the woman rejoiced when she found her lost coin.	To know heaven rejoices over each of us.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Matthew 13:10-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord for the children You will bring to us for this lesson. Make us like the good soil, that we might nourish their faith and help them grow to be fruitful. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

This week, we hear Jesus' story of the growing seed. Jesus knew stories were easily remembered and would help people understand who He is and what He has done. Today, storytelling is still an effective way to reach seeking hearts.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, sticker of a seed or plant
		Coloring Center: The Growing Seed	Coloring pages of the story of the growing seed; seed, plant, flower, fruit, or vegetable stickers; crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: God's Garden	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: Fruits and Vegetables	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food (including fruits and vegetables)
		Game Center: Flower Match	Two sets of six laminated pictures of different flowers
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Sing Praises" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Am with You" "I Will Listen" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 24
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Mark 4:26-29	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 4:27 Visual: Picture of a farmer planting seeds, "Growing Seed Packet" craft sample, large seed, cup of dirt
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Growing Seed Packet	Standard letter-size envelope, white sturdy paper, five seeds*, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick, optional: labels, stickers of seeds, sprouts, and a full-grown plant
		Game: Watch Me Grow	Toy shovel or spoon, mist or spray bottle of water, flashlight
		Game: God Makes Me Grow	Measuring tape or yard stick, optional: growth chart
		Snack: Food For Growth	Fruit with visible seeds, such as apple, citrus, or watermelon
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 5, Lesson 24
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Mark 4:26-29	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises"
	Up to 10	Game: Circle Praise	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about how God makes things grow

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker* of a seed or plant. **Let this sticker remind you that God makes the plants grow. He makes you grow, too!**

*Families will be encouraged to keep each child's crafts and stickers for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32) in a "Kingdom Stories Treasure Box." See the Craft page and Ponder, Pray & Play card for details.

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: THE GROWING SEED

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of the story of the growing seed; seed, plant, flower, fruit, or vegetable stickers; crayons or markers

DO

Children color their picture and add stickers of plants and seeds as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

What is the man in the picture doing? (Planting seeds.) **What do seeds need to grow?** (Dirt, water, sun, air) **What do seeds grow into?** (Plants, flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc.) **Who makes the seeds grow?** (God.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD'S GARDEN

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about the plants God created. Encourage children to work together to make a fruit, vegetable, or flower garden with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

God helps things grow. Let's make a garden. What would you like to grow in it? (Children respond.) **What do gardens need to grow?** (Dirt, water, sun, air, someone to care for it) **Have you ever planted a seed or watched a plant grow?** (Children respond.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food (including fruits and vegetables)

DO

Children play while discussing plants that grow into foods we can eat.

TALK ABOUT

Fruits and vegetables start as seeds. God makes them grow into plants we can eat. What fruits or vegetables do you like to eat? (Children respond.)

GAME CENTER: FLOWER MATCH

SUPPLIES

Two sets of six laminated pictures of different flowers

DO

Children lay the pictures face down on the floor or a table. Work with the children to find matches.

TALK ABOUT

Did you know God made all the flowers? God makes tiny little seeds turn into beautiful flowers. What is your favorite color flower? (Children respond.)

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Lord,	Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
You know	(know) Open hand with palm facing down, fingertips tap the forehead two times.
that I	(I) Point to self.
love You."	(love) Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
John 21:17	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Today, we will learn God makes things grow. God makes the plants grow, and the animals, and God makes you grow, too! You get bigger every time I see you. Can you reach real high? Stretch your arms high. **Can you touch the ground?** Touch the ground. **Let's pray and thank the Lord for making us grow.** Have children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, thank You for being the one who makes all things grow. You are the King of all the earth. Amen.**



Our God is mighty. He made everything and He makes us all grow! Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."

Just as God makes plants, animals, and you grow, He makes His kingdom grow. One way He does that is through the money we bring as our offering. Let's give Him our money offerings now. Play: "Let Everything That Has Breath" as background music while collecting the offering.



God makes our friendships grow, too. Now, it is time to hear from our new friend, Ranger Ryan the Lion. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 24



Praise God for making all things grow. God loves when we sing praises to Him. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together with the motions. Practice several times.

"Sing praises to God,	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the other forearm.
sing praises."	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
Psalm 47:6	(God) The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the forearm.
	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Let's sing praises to God right now. Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Sing Praises."



The growing seed

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 4:27; picture of a farmer planting seeds, "Growing Seed Packet" craft sample, large seed, cup of dirt

Teacher Note: You may leave the seed in the dirt. Additional seeds have been provided for the next teacher.

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Do you know where we get plants from? (Seeds.) That's right, seeds. If we put a seed in dirt, water it, and give it sunshine, it will grow up into a plant. What kind of plants do you like? (Flowers, vegetables, fruit, trees, etc.)

I brought a seed with me today. Let's put it in some dirt, so it can grow. Place the seed on top of the dirt into the cup. Push it down or ask a child to push it down into the dirt. **It takes time, but with water and sunshine, this seed will grow into a plant.**

Let's listen to a story Jesus told about a growing seed. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mark 4:27.



WATCH THE WORD: MARK 4:26-29

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of a farmer planting seeds from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **A farmer plants a tiny seed;**
- **The seed grows night and day.**
- **It grows when the farmer falls asleep;**
- **It grows when he's wide awake.**

- **It grows from a seed to a great big stalk.**
- **The farmer asks, "How does it grow?"**
- **The One who makes it grow is God.**
- **The Bible tells me so!**

What did the farmer plant? (A seed.) What happened to the seed? (It grew into a plant.) Who makes the plants grow? (God.)



God makes things grow

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

Kingdom Stories Treasure Box: Encourage families to use the instructions on the Ponder, Pray & Play card to make a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to store children's Kingdom Stories Treasures for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32). Children should place their Treasure Chest Sticker on the outside of the box and their parable story crafts inside. Create a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box for the classroom to review the stories each week.

CRAFT: GROWING SEED PACKET

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of the growing seed.

Supplies: Standard letter-size envelope, white sturdy paper, five seeds*, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick, optional: labels, stickers of seeds, sprouts, and a full-grown plant

Prepare: On the envelope, print: **"The Growing Seed" Mark 4:26-29** or print it on a label and use it to seal the envelope. On white paper, draw a 2-inch picture of seeds, a growing sprout, and a full-grown plant. Cut out the three pictures.

Optional: Use stickers of seeds, sprouts, and a full-grown plant instead of drawings.

***Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** This craft was developed for ages 4-5. Large seeds can be choking hazards for young children. You may choose to substitute smaller seeds that grow quickly such as marigold, zinnia, or grass seeds.

Directions:

1. Color each picture.
2. Put the three pictures in order of growth: seeds, sprout, and a full-grown plant.
3. Glue the three pictures to the front of the envelope in growth order.
4. Put the seeds in the envelope and seal the envelope.

Craft Discussion:

- **We are making seed packets for you to take home. Where can you put the seeds so they can grow?** (In the ground, in dirt.)
- **What does God do to the seed?** (Makes it grow.)
- **God makes the seed grow into a plant. Take your seeds home and plant them. Watch how God makes them grow!**
- **You are growing, just like the seed. Who makes you grow?** (God.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: WATCH ME GROW

Purpose: Children will learn God makes the plants grow.

Supplies: Toy shovel or spoon, mist or spray bottle of water, flashlight

Directions:

1. **Let's pretend you are tiny seeds. Curl up like a tiny seed on the floor.** Teacher pretends to sprinkle soil on top of the "seeds" with the toy shovel.
2. **God sends rain to water the seeds.** Teacher sprays a light mist of water over children.
3. **God sends the sun to help the plants grow.** Turn on a flashlight to represent the sun.
4. **Grow up toward the sun! Keep growing until you are a tall plant.** Lead children in uncurling, standing, and stretching to reach as high as they can.
5. **God makes plants grow and God makes you grow, too!**

GAME: GOD MAKES ME GROW

Purpose: Children will see God makes them grow.

Supplies: Measuring tape or yard stick, optional: growth chart

Optional: Use a growth chart to mark each child's height.

Seeds grow into plants. You grow from a baby into an adult. What did you look like when you were a baby? (Children respond.) **Show me how big you were then.** Children show size of baby. **Who makes you grow?** (God.) **Let's find out how much God has made you grow.**

Directions:

1. Children stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder, against a wall.
2. Child's name, **stand up tall so we can see how much God has made you grow.**
3. Measure child's height. Tell child to say, **"God has made me grow their height tall."**
4. Lead remaining children in cheering for that child.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FOOD FOR GROWTH

Purpose: Children enjoy a snack that will help them grow.

Snack Suggestion: Fruit with visible seeds, such as apple, citrus, or watermelon

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **What did God do with the seed?** (He made it grow.)
 - **Fruits and vegetables start as seeds. God makes them grow into plants we can eat. Fruits and vegetables are good foods to eat. They help us grow tall and strong.**
 - **Who makes you grow?** (God.) **You started out as a little baby but now you are big boys and girls. What can you do now that you couldn't do as a baby?** (Children respond.)
 - **God is still making you grow. What will you be able to do when you are a grown-up that you can't do now?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Sing	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the other forearm.
praises	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
to God,	(God) The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
sing	One open flat hand moves back and forth along the forearm.
praises."	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
Psalms 47:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MARK 4:26-29

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **A farmer plants a tiny seed;** (Hold imaginary seed between thumb and index finger.)
- **The seed grows night and day.** (Touch the ground, then reach for the sky.)
- **It grows when the farmer falls asleep;** (Close eyes, rest head on folded hands.)
- **It grows when he's wide awake.** (Open eyes widely, with hands at sides.)

- **It grows from a seed to a great big stalk.** (First hold seed, then stretch arms far apart.)
- **The farmer asks, "How does it grow?"** (Palms face up, shrug shoulders.)
- **The One who makes it grow is God.** (Point to heaven.)
- **The Bible tells me so!** (Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Sing praises to God, sing praises." Psalm 47:6

GAME: PRAISE DANCE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises"

Jesus loves to hear you sing praises to Him. Praises are words that say how great Jesus is. Let's praise Him together as we dance and sing our Bible Memory Verse Song!

Directions:

1. Play and sing: "Sing Praises."
2. Encourage children to sing, dance, and create motions to help remember the words to the song.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: CIRCLE PRAISE

Purpose: Children stand to praise God for something in their life. Some praise examples include: family, friends, pets, toys, teachers, favorite activities, etc.

Supplies: None

We can praise God by thanking Him for the good things He gives us. Let's praise and thank God for all of those good things!

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the center.
3. Seated children chant: "Name of standing child sings praises to our King!"
"Name of standing child, what is the praise you bring?"
4. Standing child says, "**I praise God for child's individual praise.**"
5. All the children clap and shout "**We praise God!**"
6. The child in the center chooses another child to stand and sits back down in the circle.
7. Play until each child has had a turn giving praise.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about how God makes things grow.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 5, Lesson 24: The Growing Seed

PONDER! Jesus told the story of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-29). Show your Growing Seed Packet to your family. Talk about how God makes seeds grow into plants. God makes you grow, too. He makes you able to do more and more things as you grow.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for making us grow. Help us to love and serve You as we grow. Amen."

PLAY! Open your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box (any decorated box). Put today's craft inside. Put your Treasure Box Sticker on the outside. During the week, take out your craft treasures to remind your family of Jesus' stories.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"Sing
praises
to God,**

One open flat hand moves back and forth along the other forearm.

The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.

(God) The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**sing
praises."**

One open flat hand moves back and forth along the forearm.

The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.

Psalms 47:6

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.