



# 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

**Whisper Verse:** "God made it grow."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth." Psalm 47:6-7a

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 will search for the lost and find them.
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 make wise choices based on God's Word.
26	The Good Shepherd, John 10:14-16	Jesus taught 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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, seed or plant stamp or sticker
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God made it grow."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Sing Praises" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide" "I Am with You" "It's Praise Time" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Amazing Grace" "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Cedarmont Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		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: "Growing Seed Packet" craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Growing Seed Packet	Standard letter-size envelope, white sturdy paper, five large 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, optional: 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
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 24 Color This Story: "The Growing Seed"
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," CD player
	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.



God made it grow

## THE 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 seed or plant stamp or sticker. **Let this remind you that God makes the plants grow. He makes you grow, too! Today's Whisper Verse is "God made it grow."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

**SIGN LANGUAGE: "God made it grow."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>"God"</b>             | The right hand is lowered and then slightly raised in front of face with palm facing left and fingers together. |
| <b>"(made it) grow."</b> | Both hands move upward to show that someone is getting taller.  |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song":**    **Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!**  
                              **Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "God made it grow," 1 Corinthians 3:6. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who teaches

## THE WORSHIP

**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 “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.

**It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to King Jesus. He tells us stories about His kingdom. Have you ever had a teacher tell you a story? (Children respond.) Jesus told stories, too! His stories are very special because they help us understand the kingdom of God. Today, we will hear the story Jesus told about the growing seed. Who do you think made that seed grow? (God.) That’s right—God made it grow. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let’s try it together.** Review Whisper Verse together: “God made it grow.” Include sign language.



**Just as God makes the seed 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: “Amazing Grace” 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.



**Our God is mighty. He made everything and He makes us all grow! Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.” Let’s sing praises to Him now for making us grow. Sing: “Sing Praises” and “Let Everything That Has Breath.”**



The growing seed

## THE WORD

**Additional Supplies:** Classroom Kingdom Stories Treasure Box, Lesson 23 “Lost and Found Sheep” craft sample

**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.

Open the Classroom Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to display the Lesson 23 “Lost and Found Sheep” craft sample. **Last time, we learned Jesus finds us when we are lost, just like a shepherd finds his lost sheep. Who would like to tell the story we learned last time of the lost sheep?** Choose a volunteer to tell the story while they hold the craft sample.

**Today, we will hear how Jesus told the story of the growing seed.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mark 4:27.

## WATCH THE WORD: MARK 4:26-29

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a “Growing Seed Packet” craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **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!**

**Who makes the plants grow? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let’s say it together: “God made it grow.”** Include sign language or hand motions.



**When does the seed grow? (Day and night.) Let’s find our answer in the Bible.** Read Mark 4:27 from teacher’s Bible. **God makes the seed grow all day and all night.**



God makes us 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.

**Teacher Tip:** Encourage families to use the instructions on the Ponder, Pray & Play card to make a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box. Children can use it to store their Kingdom Stories Treasures for the lessons from Unit 5 and 6 (Lessons 23-32). The Kingdom Stories Treasure Box Sticker goes on the outside of the Treasure Box. During each lesson, children create the craft to be placed in the Treasure Box. When Units 5 and 6 are completed, there will be a total of ten crafts inside the Treasure Box and ten stickers decorating the outside of the box.

### **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 large 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.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color each picture.
2. Put the three pictures in order of growth: seeds, sprout, 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.) **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it now with the motions! Say Whisper Verse with the motions: "God made 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, optional: flashlight

**Optional:** At the beginning, turn off the lights. Be sure there is still some light as some children may be afraid if the room is completely dark. Turn on the lights or use a flashlight to represent the sun.

### **Directions:**

1. **Let's pretend you are tiny seeds. Curl up like a tiny seed on the floor.**
2. Teacher pretends to sprinkle soil on top of the "seeds" with the toy shovel.
3. **God sends rain to water the seeds.**
4. Teacher sprays a light mist of water over children.
5. **God sends the sun to help the plants grow. 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.
6. **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.) **That's our Whisper Verse!** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "God made it grow." **As we eat this fruit, see if you can find any seeds.**
  - **What does fruit grow on?** (Trees, plants.) **Trees and plants start out as tiny seeds and God makes them grow. When they are all grown up, they make fruit with more seeds to grow more trees or plants. Then, we can pick and eat their fruit.**
  - **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.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Growing Seed Packet" craft. Tell someone God makes things grow. After you plant your seeds, put your "Growing Seed Packet" in your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box when you get home. You can make your Treasure Box from any box you find at home. Remember to put your seed or plant sticker on the outside of your Treasure Box.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Ask them to help you plant your seeds and watch them grow.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "The Growing Seed." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises" as children color.





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!** (Fold hands and open them like opening a book.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth." Psalm 47:6-7a

### **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," CD player

**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. Sing or play recording of "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 things we love. He gives us so many good things. Think of one thing you love that God has given to you. 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. Child in the center chooses another child to stand and takes that child's place in the circle.
7. Play until each child has had a turn giving praise.

**Option:** Each time children say the word "sings" or "praises," use the following hand motions:

**"Sings"** Hands move back and forth in rhythm as if conducting music for a choir.

**"Praises"** Index finger points from mouth outward (sign language for "truth"), then clap hands twice.



## **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 growing.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 5, Lesson 24: The Growing Seed

**PONDER!** Read Mark 4:26-29 with your family. Show your Growing Seed Packet to them. 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 box from home decorated to be a Treasure Box). Place today's craft inside your Treasure Box. Put your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box Sticker on the outside of your Treasure Box. This week, show someone each treasure you have made. Tell them the stories Jesus told!

**Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse:** Psalm 47:6-7a

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth."