

The Pruning Of Trees

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: If we want to bear Jesus' fruit, we must abide in Him. Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15

Memory Verse: John 15:5 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

The Children's Sermon

Today we're going to talk about something really cool that Jesus said. Imagine you're in a beautiful garden. There are flowers, fruits, and all sorts of plants. In this garden, there's a gardener who takes care of everything. Jesus tells us that God is like that gardener. And we are like the plants in His garden. This story is about "Pruning for Fruitfulness."

Now, pruning might sound a bit scary. It's when the gardener cuts parts off the plants. But why would the gardener do that? It's because cutting off the parts that aren't healthy or are taking too much energy helps the plant grow even better. It can make more flowers or fruits. So, when we talk about "Pruning for Fruitfulness," we mean God helps us grow better by sometimes taking away things that aren't good for us.

Sometimes, we might not understand why God is pruning us. We might think, "Why is this happening?" But remember, just like the gardener knows what's best for the plants, God knows what's best for us. Jesus tells us, "You did not choose me. I chose you to go and bear much fruit. The kind of fruit that lasts forever."

Now, let's imagine what it means to be fruitful. Being fruitful isn't just about growing fruits or flowers. For us, it means doing good things, like being kind, helping others, and spreading happiness. Every time we do something good, it's like we're growing a beautiful flower or a tasty fruit in God's garden.

But sometimes, to help us grow these beautiful things, God needs to prune us. That might mean changing something in our lives, like learning to share better or being more patient. Even though it might be hard, it's all part of "Pruning for Fruitfulness." It's how we grow into the best versions of ourselves.

You know, plants don't grow beautiful flowers or fruits overnight. It takes time and care. The same goes for us. Growing into kind, loving, and fruitful people takes time. We might make mistakes, but that's okay. God, the gardener, is always there to help us get back on track.

Let's think about the fruits we can grow in our lives. Love, kindness, joy, peace, and patience are just a few. Every day, we have the chance to grow these fruits by the choices we make. When we choose to be kind, to share, and to listen, we're growing beautiful fruits that make the world a better place.

Sometimes, when God is pruning us, it might feel lonely or sad. But remember, just like a plant needs water and sunlight, we need God's love and our friends and family to help us grow. We're never alone in the garden. We have each other, and we have God, who loves us very much.

Now, let's imagine our garden filled with all the beautiful fruits and flowers we've grown by being kind, patient, and loving. It's a colorful, happy place where everyone is

welcome. This is the garden God wants us to grow together, a garden of "Pruning for Fruitfulness."

Before we finish, let's pray once more. Dear God, thank you for loving us and taking care of us. Help us to understand when you're pruning us and to remember it's because you want us to grow beautiful fruits. Help us to be patient, kind, and loving, so our garden is full of joy and happiness. Amen.

So, next time you see a gardener pruning a plant, remember how God prunes us for fruitfulness. And every day, let's try to grow a little more love, kindness, and joy in our garden.

Bible Memory Verse

John 15:5 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (green, brown, and various fruit colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons or markers

Get Ready:

- Cut out a large vine shape from the brown construction paper.
- Cut out several branch shapes from the green construction paper and various fruit shapes from the colored construction paper.

Do This:

1. Have the children color the vine and branches with crayons or markers. Talk about how Jesus is like the vine and we are like the branches.
2. Help the children glue their branches onto the vine. As they do this, explain that staying close to Jesus helps us grow.
3. Let the children choose fruit shapes to glue onto their branches. Discuss how bearing fruit means doing good things because we love Jesus.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (green, red, yellow, and brown)
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- A large poster board

Get Ready:

- Pre-cut green paper into leaf shapes.
- Cut red and yellow paper into simple fruit shapes (circles or ovals).
- Cut brown paper into branch shapes.
- Draw a large tree trunk with branches on the poster board.

Do this:

1. Give each child a brown paper branch and have them glue it onto the tree trunk on the poster board, showing how we are all connected to Jesus.

3. Next, provide the children with green leaf shapes and the fruit shapes. Have them decorate their leaves and fruits with markers or crayons, adding their names or drawings that represent love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
4. Once decorated, help the children glue their leaves and fruits onto their branches on the tree. As they do, remind them that staying close to Jesus helps us grow good things in our lives.
5. Conclude by gathering around the tree and saying a simple prayer, asking God to help us stay close to Jesus and bear good fruit.

Snack Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Snack Time

You'll Need:

- Grapes
- Strawberries
- Blueberries
- Small paper plates
- Napkins

Get Ready: Wash all the fruit thoroughly and set them out on a large tray or several small plates. Make sure there are enough pieces of each fruit for every child to have some.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the table where the fruits are spread out. Explain that just like these fruits are connected to their vines or plants to grow, we need to stay connected to Jesus to grow good things in our lives, like kindness, love, and patience.

2. Let each child make their own 'fruit of the Spirit' plate. They can pick a few pieces of each fruit and place them on their paper plate. As they do this, encourage them to think of a good thing they can do to show love or kindness, like sharing or helping.
3. While the children eat their fruit, read a simplified version of John 15:4-5 to them, explaining that Jesus wants us to be close to Him like branches are to a vine, so we can be full of His love and share it with others.

Game Activity: Fruitful Vines Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Pictures of fruits (optional)
- A small bean bag or stone

Get Ready: Draw a large vine on the ground with branches leading off to different 'fruit stations'. Each station should be a square big enough for a child to stand in, with a picture of a fruit (or the name of a fruit if pictures aren't available) drawn inside.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like branches need to stay connected to the vine to grow fruit, we need to stay close to Jesus to grow good things in our lives.
2. Have the children take turns tossing the bean bag or stone to land on a fruit station.
3. When a child lands on a fruit station, they hop on one foot (or walk for younger children) along the vine to the station, pick up the bean bag, and say one good 'fruit' (like love, joy, or kindness) that we can grow in our lives by staying close to Jesus. Then, they hop back.
4. Encourage cheering and support among the children as they take their turns.

Craft Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Tree

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (green, brown, and various fruit colors)
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Pre-cut brown paper into tree trunk shapes and green paper into leafy tree top shapes. Also, pre-cut various fruit shapes out of the colorful papers.

Do this:

1. Have each child choose a tree trunk and a tree top. They can glue the tree top to the trunk on a separate sheet of construction paper to start their tree.
2. Talk to the children about how being close to Jesus helps us grow good things in our lives, like love, joy, and kindness, which are like the fruit on Jesus' tree.
3. Let the children pick different fruit shapes and write or draw on each fruit a good thing they can do or feel, like 'sharing', 'smiling', or 'helping'. Then, they can glue their fruits onto their tree tops.
4. Encourage the children to share their trees and talk about the good 'fruits' they chose to put on their tree.

Prayer Activity: Fruits of the Spirit Prayer Garden

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Safety scissors

Get Ready: Cut out simple fruit shapes from the construction paper ahead of time. Each fruit will represent a 'fruit of the Spirit' (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

Do this:

1. Begin by explaining that just like plants need to stay connected to the soil to grow, we need to stay connected to Jesus to grow good things in our hearts. Mention that these good things are called 'fruits of the Spirit'.
2. Show the children the pre-cut fruit shapes and discuss what each fruit represents. For example, a strawberry for love, a banana for patience, an apple for joy, etc. As you discuss each one, have the children color or decorate their fruit.
3. After decorating, gather the children in a circle and invite them to place their fruit in the center to create a 'prayer garden'. Lead them in a simple prayer, asking God to help them grow the fruits of the Spirit in their lives by staying connected to Jesus.