

Making Choices

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: The choices we make determine how we grow

Scripture: Luke 8:11

Memory Verse: The seed is the word of God. - Luke 8:11

The Children's Sermon

Hello! Today, we're going to talk about a very special seed. But it's not just any seed—it's the Seed of the Word. This seed is like the tiny seeds we plant in the ground, but instead of growing into plants or flowers, it grows inside our hearts. It's the seed of faith in Jesus Christ.

Imagine you have a tiny seed in your hand. You want it to grow into a big, strong plant, right? To do that, you have to make the best choices for it. You need to put it in good soil, give it enough water, and make sure it gets plenty of sunlight.

Just like the seed, the Seed of the Word needs special care to grow. Did you know that we have to make choices to help this seed grow so we can become mature Christians? What do you think some of these choices are? (Pause for answers) That's right! We need to choose to pray, study God's Word, and go to church.

Now, let's imagine our hearts are like little gardens. When we hear about Jesus and decide to follow Him, it's like planting the Seed of the Word in our heart-garden. But for it to grow, we need to take care of it every day.

One way to help the Seed of the Word grow is by talking to God through prayer. Just like plants need water to grow, our faith needs prayer. When we pray, we're watering the Seed of the Word, helping it to sprout and grow stronger.

Another way to help it grow is by reading the Bible. The Bible is like sunlight for our seed. It helps us understand how much God loves us and teaches us how to live. When we read the Bible, it's like shining light on our Seed of the Word, making it grow tall and strong.

Going to church is also important. Church is like the garden where many seeds grow together. When we go to church, we meet other people who have the Seed of the Word growing in their hearts. We can learn from them, and they can learn from us. It's like all the plants in the garden getting stronger together.

Sometimes, just like in a real garden, weeds can try to grow around our Seed of the Word. These weeds can be things like unkind words, bad choices, or not listening to what God says. We need to pull these weeds out, so they don't stop our seed from growing.

Remember, even when it's hard and the weeds seem big, God is always with us. He gives us the strength to take care of our heart-garden. And the amazing thing is, the more we take care of the Seed of the Word, the more it grows, and the more it can spread to others.

Our Seed of the Word can grow so big that it starts to show in our actions. We become kinder, more patient, and more loving. People can see the beautiful plant that has

grown from the Seed of the Word in our hearts, and it might help them want to plant their own seed too.

Let's say a prayer together:

"Father God, please help us to make wise choices so the Seed of the Word can grow in our hearts. Help us to pray, read the Bible, and go to church. Show us how to pull out the weeds and be kind to others. Thank you for loving us and helping our seeds grow. Amen."

So, little friends, let's take care of our heart-gardens every day. Let's make sure the Seed of the Word grows big and strong, so our lives can be full of love and joy. And remember, no matter how small you are, your Seed of the Word can grow into something amazing!

Bible Memory Verse

The seed is the word of God. - Luke 8:11

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Seed packets (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large seed shapes.

-If using, print out simple words or phrases from the verse onto stickers or prepare to write them directly on the seeds.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper seed and markers or crayons. Help them write 'The seed is the word of God' or just 'word of God' if space is limited, on one side of the seed.
2. On the other side, let them draw or write things they can do to grow in God's word (like praying, reading the Bible, being kind, etc.).
3. Discuss how just like seeds need water and sunlight to grow, we need to read the Bible and pray to grow in God's love. If you have seed packets, you can show them as a visual aid and talk about how different seeds grow into different plants, just like how we grow in different ways when we learn more about God.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small flower pots (one per child)
- Soil
- Seeds (easy-to-grow flowers or beans)
- Watering cans or cups
- Luke 8:11 printed on paper
- Stickers and markers for decorating pots

Get Ready:

- Fill a table with the small flower pots.
- Have the soil, seeds, watering cans, and decorations ready on a separate table.
- Print Luke 8:11 on paper and have enough copies for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Luke 8:11 to the children, simplifying it to: "The seed is the word of God. When we listen and make good choices, we grow strong and happy."
2. Let each child pick a flower pot and decorate it with stickers and markers. While they decorate, talk to them about how making good choices is like decorating our hearts with joy and love.
3. Guide the children to fill their pots with soil, plant the seeds, and water them. Explain that just like seeds need soil, water, and sunlight to grow, we need love, kindness, and good choices to grow in God's love.
4. Conclude by encouraging them to take their pots home, care for their plants, and remember that every good choice helps them grow just like their plants.

Snack Activity: Growing Good Choices Garden

You'll Need:

- Small clear plastic cups
- Chocolate pudding
- Oreo cookies
- Gummy worms
- Plastic spoons

Get Ready: Prepare the chocolate pudding according to the package instructions and let it set. Crush the Oreo cookies into small pieces to resemble dirt.

Do this:

1. Fill the bottom of each plastic cup with a layer of chocolate pudding to represent the 'soil' where our choices are planted, just like the seeds in Luke 8:11.

2. Let the children sprinkle the crushed Oreo 'dirt' on top of the pudding soil. Discuss how our choices, good or bad, are buried in our lives.
3. Have the children 'plant' a gummy worm in the cup. Explain how the worm can represent the growth that comes from making good choices, and how it navigates through the 'soil' of our lives, affecting everything it touches.

Game Activity: Garden Path Choices

You'll Need:

- Large pieces of green construction paper
- Pictures of flowers, rocks, and weeds (can be drawn or printed)
- Tape

Get Ready: Arrange the green construction paper on the floor to create a 'path' through your play area. Tape pictures of flowers, rocks, and weeds randomly on the 'path'.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the path represents our lives and the choices we make. Flowers represent good choices that help us grow, rocks represent challenges, and weeds represent bad choices that can stop us from growing.
2. Have the children start at the beginning of the path. As they hop from one piece of paper to another, they should try to land on the flowers (good choices) and avoid the rocks and weeds.
3. When a child lands on a flower, ask them to think of a good choice they can make (like sharing or listening). If they land on a weed or rock, discuss briefly how that might not help us grow (like not listening or being unkind).

4. Continue until all children have had a turn to navigate the 'Garden Path'. Celebrate each child's journey and reinforce the idea that making good choices helps us grow, just like seeds growing into beautiful flowers.

Craft Activity: Growing in God's Garden

You'll Need:

- A paper plate
- Cotton balls
- Green construction paper
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper into small leaf shapes and strips to represent stems.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like plants need good soil to grow, we need to make good choices to grow in God's love. Luke 8:11 tells us 'The seed is the word of God.'
2. Have the children color the paper plate with markers or crayons to look like soil.
3. Glue cotton balls around the edge of the paper plate to represent seeds. Then, glue the green paper leaves and stems coming out from the cotton balls to show growth. Discuss how making good choices helps us grow strong and healthy in our faith, just like the plants grow strong and healthy in good soil.

Prayer Activity: Growing Seeds of Faith

You'll Need:

- A small pot for each child
- Soil
- Seeds (such as beans or sunflowers)
- Water

Get Ready: Gather all the materials. Print or draw a simple illustration of Luke 8:11 ('The seed is the word of God.') to show the children.

Do this:

1. Show the children the illustration and explain that just like seeds need soil, water, and sunlight to grow, our faith needs prayer, reading the Bible, and doing good things to grow.
2. Help each child fill their pot with soil and plant a few seeds in it. Talk about how making good choices helps us grow strong like these plants.
3. Encourage the children to water their seeds and say a simple prayer asking God to help them make good choices so they can grow in faith, just like their seeds will grow into plants.