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SERIES: FOUNDATIONS FOR KIDS

How To Grow

PursueGOD.org

Lesson Overview

We're continuing in our series called, "Foundations for kids". If we want a strong relationship with God, then we need to understand 3 important truths. Today, we're going to talk about the third truth which is: we grow by helping others. Did you know that Jesus wants your help? He does! Jesus is so smart that he accomplishes two things at once. He designed us to grow in our love for him when we help someone else. And, when we help someone, we're pointing them to Jesus. See how that works? When we help others, they get a glimpse of God through us and we grow in our faith! Here are the three main ways you can help others: 1. Serving at home and at school. 2. Giving money to your church. 3. Share Jesus with your friends. So, if you want to grow in your faith in God, look for ways to help someone else.

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: How do you feel when people do things for you? How can you serve people in your life?** (Tip: It feels good when people do things for us. For example, when your Mom cooks you dinner or when your sibling does one of your chores. We should look for ways to serve others, too.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **By serving and sharing Jesus with them.** (God's love is the best kind of love anyone can ever experience. And, we can show the love of God to others by serving them. We can help a friend with homework or encourage them when they're sad. And, the best thing we can do is to share what Jesus has done for them: He died on the cross to pay for their sins, and when they put their trust in him, they can live in heaven with him someday.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** What can we do to help others? Why should we tell our friends about Jesus? **4-5th:** What are some things you can do at school to show the love of Jesus to others?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Romans 12:9-11. What does it look like to really love someone? How can you honor people in your life?** (Answer: To really love someone, you need to do things that help them and make them feel special. Things like; writing a nice note to tell them how special they are or doing chores to help your parents. This is also how you honor people. You show your appreciation by looking for ways to serve them.
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Big Idea*We grow by helping others***Key Question***How can we help our friends?***Memory Verse***Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all the nations."*

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: SERVE OTHERS PAPER CHAIN CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid 4 strips of construction paper.
- Give each kid a Serve Others template (page 5)
- Have kids glue each phrase onto one of their paper strips.
- Then have kids tape the ends of one paper strip together to make a circle. Make sure the phrase is on the outside of the circle so it's easier to read.
- Then, have kids take another strip and put it through the circle and tape those ends together. This will form a chain. Have kids do that for the other two strips.

- As they work, remind the kids to look for ways to serve others.

Supplies needed: 6 in. wide strips of construction paper (4 per kid), Serve Others template (pg. 5, precut, 1 set per kid), Glue, Tape

Bonus Activity: "Telephone"

Have kids sit in a circle. Whisper the **Big Idea** in the ear of one kid. Have them whisper it to the kid on their right. Continue around the circle. Last kid has to say the message they heard.

OPTION 2: HELPING OTHERS CANDY UNWRAP GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, prepare the bags for the game
 - Place 4 tootsie rolls in each bag
 - Wrap each bag with a rubber band
- Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a bag.
- When you say "Go!", have kids try to get to the candy **but each kid can only use one hand**. They'll have to work together to get the task done!
- Kids can each have 2 pieces of candy to enjoy at the end of the game.

Supplies needed:

Baggies, Tootsie Roll candies (4 per bag), Rubber bands (1 per bag)

Bonus Activity: "Memory verse game"

Say the memory verse as a class. Say it again while **clapping**. Say it again while **hopping** up and down.

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PursueGOD.org**Foundations Truth #3: We Grow By _____**

It's easy for kids to think the whole world revolves around them. Parents, teachers, principals, bus drivers... everyone is helping them! But do you know what happens when you grow up? You're the one helping others! And that's how God wants it to be. If we really want to grow up as Christians, then we need to help others.

We Grow By _____ People

If you want to grow up to be the most mature Christian ever, you have to learn to serve people around you. Do you know who was famous for that in the Bible? Jesus!

We Grow By _____ Money

Did you know that at church you can give money in the offering? Why would a kid do that?! Because that money helps more people meet Jesus! And even kids can be generous with their money – even if they don't have a lot. Every little bit counts!

The Greatest Way to Grow Is by _____ With Others

Have you ever told another kid what Jesus means to you? At first it seems hard to do, but it's really pretty easy! Try inviting them to church or showing them one of your favorite Kids Church videos. Maybe they want to have a relationship with God, too. Maybe they've noticed that you're a different kind of kid, and they want what you have. When you share your faith, that's when you'll really start growing. And someday, you'll be able to mentor other kids and teach them about Jesus. That's exactly what God wants.

Matthew 28:18-19 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..."

Answers: Helping Others, Serving, Giving, Sharing Our Faith Parent Signature: _____

Discussion Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. How do you feel when people do things for you? How can you serve people in your life?
3. Why should we give money to God?
4. Identify a friend you would like to invite to church or talk to about Jesus. Talk with your parents about how best to do that.
5. Read [Romans 12:9-11](#). What does it look like to really love someone? How can you honor people in your life?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

WE GROW BY HELPING OTHERS

Key Question

How can we help our friends?

Memory Verse

Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all the nations."





DO CHORES FOR YOUR PARENTS

HELP YOUR SIBLING

WRITE A NOTE TO A FRIEND

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

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