

Lesson 11

Growing In Christ

Memory Verse:

Bear fruit in every good thing you do. So we want you to grow to know God better.
Colossians 1:10 (NIRV)

Scripture References:

-  Colossians 1:10
-  Ephesians 4:13-15
-  John 15:1-10
-  Matthew 7:24-27
-  John 15:1-10
-  Acts 2:42-47

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Seeker Series #6, "Pathway" for each child
- Ping-Pong Ball
- Table or masking tape
- A grapevine, vine-style potted plant, or picture on page 14
- Cluster of grapes
- Pruning shears or scissors
- Small box
- Large seed or seed package
- Small planting pot or cup
- Soil
- Bottled Water
- Picture of sun
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Clothes pins or tape
- Poster board
- Simple building toy or object that requires instruction manual
- Paper
- Pencils and pens
- 2 small bags
- Copies of church pattern from page 15
- 10-20 Plastic, Paper or Styro-foam cups

Life Point:

God wants me to grow to know Him better.



This lesson is based on Seeker Series Issue #6: "Pathway". It is recommended that you read this story before class so that you are familiar with it. Make sure each child has their own copy.

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson, the children will learn:

- They need to grow to know God better
- We grow to know God better through prayer, Bible reading and going to church

Teacher Introduction:

PowerMark Seeker Series Issue #6, "Pathway", helps the children learn how to grow in their Christian faith. The Seekers learn that Christians grow in Christ through prayer, reading the Bible, going to church, memorizing scripture, and telling others about Jesus.

Being saved or becoming a Christian has also been called being "born again." Jesus uses that term in John 3 to explain the process of salvation to Nicodemus. Just as our physical life begins with birth, our spiritual life begins through rebirth or being born again by the Spirit of God. After physical birth, our body begins to grow and mature. In the same way, we need to grow and mature after our spiritual rebirth. Growing in our Christian faith is a sign of a healthy spiritual life.

In this lesson, the children will learn that God wants each of us to grow to know Him better. Spiritual growth is a lifelong process. The children will learn that we grow in Christ through prayer, Bible reading, faithful church attendance, and sharing the good news of salvation with others.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, pray that the children will take spiritual growth seriously. Ask yourself what you are doing personally to grow in Christ. Remember that you are a role model to the children of what it means to be a Christian.

Large Group Time

© Lesson Introduction

Supplies:

- Bible
- Ping-Pong ball
- Table or masking tape to create boundaries on the floor

➔ **Optional:** For an extra challenge, slowly add more ping-pong balls.

Title: “Ping-Pong Blow”

Purpose: To learn that God doesn’t want us to get blown around by false teaching. We need to grow in our knowledge of God.

Preparation: Set up a table (3 ft. by 6 ft. or 1 meter by 2 meter rectangle shaped table is best). If you don’t have a table, create a 3 ft. by 6 ft. (1 meter by 2 meter) rectangle playing area on the ground using the masking tape.

Instructions: The children are going to play a game called “Ping-Pong Blow”. You will need to create two teams with 5 or 6 children on each team. The teams kneel on opposite sides, lengthwise along the table. No one kneels at the ends of the table. Assign each team an end of the table as their goal. The children need to clasp their hands together behind their backs. They can only use the air they blow to move the ball along. The object of the game is to blow the ping-pong ball off your opponent’s end of the table. A point is scored when a team successfully blows the ping-pong ball off the table.

Presentation: Select 10 to 12 children to play the game and divide them into two teams. **We are going to play a game called “Ping-Pong Blow.”** Explain how to play the game using the directions above. Check to make sure they understand how to play and then begin the game by placing the ping-pong ball in the middle of the table. When you say “GO!”, the children begin blowing the ping-pong ball toward their goal.

After the game, ask: **What was the easiest part of this game?** (Allow response.) **What was the hardest?** (Allow response.) **How would you feel in you were the ping-pong ball?** (Allow response.)

Read Ephesians 4:13-15. **In what way was our game like this verse?** (Allow response.) **Just like we used our breath to blow the ping-pong ball(s) around, the world** (secular thought, false religions, etc) **wants to “blow” us around by trying to tell us how we should live our lives. Once we accept Christ as our Savior and become a Christian, we need to stop living our lives the way the world wants and begin living our lives the way God wants us to. We need to grow up in Christ.**

Today, we are going to learn how to live our lives for God and grow in knowing Him. We can learn how to live a Christian life by praying, reading the Bible and going to church. I’m so glad that God wants me to grow to know Him better. Let’s start growing strong in God today!

© Bible Lesson

Supplies:

- Bible
- A grapevine, vine-style potted plant, or a picture of a grapevine with branches from page 14
- Cluster of grapes
- Pruning shears or scissors



📖 Scriptures:

- John 15:1-10

Title: “The Vine and the Branches”

Purpose: To illustrate that we need to stay connected to Christ if we are going to grow in our spiritual life.

Preparation: Bring a grapevine, vine-style potted plant, or use the picture on Page 16. Also bring a cluster of grapes. It would be great if you could find a cluster of grapes still attached to the vine. You will also need pruning shears or scissors. If these are not available, draw the example of the vine and grapes on a chalkboard. You may also consider inviting someone who tends a vineyard or orchard to come and speak about growing fruit.

Hold up the vine or place the potted plant on a table so all the children can see it. **I’ve brought something with me to today to help us understand what it means to grow in Christ. Who can tell me what this is?** (Allow response.) **The vine and branches on this plant will help us to learn how we can grow as Christians. In fact, Jesus used the example of the vine and branches when He taught His followers or disciples about spiritual growth.**

Open your Bible to John 15 and read verse 1. **Jesus said, “I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener.” The vine or root of this plant supplies the branches with the nutrients they need to grow and produce fruit. Jesus is like that vine or root because true spiritual life only comes from Him.**

God, the Father, is like a gardener or farmer. What does a gardener do? (Allow response.) Possible answers: he plants, waters, and takes care of the plants so that they grow healthy and produce fruit, etc. **A gardener plants something because he wants and expects the plant to grow. In the same way, God wants us to grow in our relationship with Jesus. Like a gardener, God helps us to grow strong in Jesus by giving us what we need to grow. The Bible, prayer, and church are a few of the main things God has provided us so that we can grow to know Him better.**

Read verses 5-6. **Jesus also said, “I am the vine. You are the branches. If anyone remains joined to Me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can’t do anything without Me. If anyone does not remain joined to Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and dries up. Branches like those are picked up. They are thrown into the fire and burned.”**

Jesus tells us that His followers, those who believe in Him, are like the branches that grow from the main vine. When we become a Christian, we connect or join with Christ. As a branch, we depend on Jesus, the vine, to give us life and help us to grow.

Hold your shears or scissors and act as though you are going to cut a

branch from the plant. **What would happen if I cut this branch from the vine?** (Allow response.) **Would the branch that I cut from the vine continue to grow on its own?** (Allow response.) **Could it produce fruit without being attached to the vine?** (Allow response.) **The only way that this branch will grow and stay healthy is if it is connected to the vine.**

In the same way, we need to stay connected to Jesus in order to grow in our relationship with Him and our knowledge of who He is. That is why Jesus said, “If anyone remains joined to Me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can’t do anything without Me (verse 5).” How do we “remain joined” or stay connected to Jesus? (Allow response.) Possible answers: through prayer, meditation, Bible reading, worship, attending church, obeying His commands, etc.

What is one of the signs that a grapevine is properly growing? (Allow response.) Possible answer: it produces grapes. **A grapevine that is growing healthy and strong will produce grapes.** Hold up the cluster of grapes. **How many of you like grapes?** (Allow response.) **Grapes are a very tasty, sweet and refreshing fruit. I really enjoy eating them.**

The gardener, who planted the grapevines, is very happy when he sees that the branches are producing fruit. In the same way, God is very pleased when He sees that we are growing in our relationship with Jesus. Read verse 8. “When you bear a lot of fruit, it brings glory to My Father. It shows that you are My disciples.”

Not only does it please God when we choose to grow in Jesus, it also shows that we are followers or disciples of Jesus. True Christians continue to grow in Jesus everyday of their lives. They choose to do things that will help them learn more about Jesus and how to live for Him.

Are you growing in Jesus? Are you connected to the True Vine? If not, make the choice to start growing today. God wants each of us to grow to know Him better.

© Object Lesson

Supplies:

- Bible
- Small box
- Large seed or package of seeds
- Small planting pot or cup
- Soil
- Bottle of Water
- Picture of sun, hand

Title: “Growing In Christ”

Purpose: To illustrate what each Christian needs in order to grow spiritually in Christ.

Preparation: Place all of the items in a box so that the children cannot see the items until you bring each one out during the lesson.

Today we are focusing our lesson on learning how to grow spiritually. We know that God wants each of us to grow to know Him better. We just heard that as Christians we can only grow when we are connected to Jesus. So our spiritual growth begins when we

drawn or from a magazine

choose to follow Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

Has anyone ever heard someone use the words “born again”? (Allow response.) In John 3 Jesus said, “No one can see God’s kingdom without being born again.” You were physically born when your mother gave you birth. You are spiritually born again when you accept God’s forgiveness of sin through Jesus and choose to live your life for Him.

After you were physically born, what things did you need and do you continue to need even today to grow healthy and strong? (Allow response.) Possible answers: food, water, sleep, shelter, etc. These things are necessary for proper physical growth. There are several things that are also necessary for growing spiritually.

Hold up the seed or packet of seeds. This lesson sample uses a tomato seed. You can use any type of seed for this lesson. **I am going to use these seeds and a few other supplies to help us learn how to spiritually grow in Christ.**

These seeds represent our new life in Christ. Without this seed you would not be able to grow a tomato plant. Without Jesus in our life, we cannot spiritually grow.

What is the first thing this seed needs in order to grow? (Allow response.) The children should say that you need to plant the seed in soil. In order for this seed to produce tomatoes, it needs to be planted in soil. Take the soil from your box and show the children. Pour the soil into the pot or cup. Choose a child to come and plant the seed in the soil. The soil supplies the seed with the nutrients it needs to grow a healthy tomato plant. It also gives the seed a place to grow its roots. Without a strong root system, the plant cannot grow strong above the ground.

Just as these seeds need soil to grow, Christians need to read God’s Word to grow. God’s Word, the Bible, helps us learn who God is and how we can live the way God wants us to live. It is full of wonderful stories of God’s love and Jesus’ teachings. Like the nutrients in the soil, the teaching and stories in the Bible help us to grow healthy and strong.

As the soil gives a place for the roots to grow, reading the Bible also helps us to grow spiritual roots. We need to sink our spiritual roots deep in God’s Word. By reading the Bible, our faith in God becomes strong. With a strong faith in God, we can grow healthy and strong in Christ.

What is another thing the seeds need in order to grow? (Allow response.) Some children will probably say that the seed needs water. After the seed is planted in the soil it needs to be watered. The water provides the right amount of moisture and nutrients that the plant needs in order to grow. If this seed doesn’t get watered, it will dry up and the seed will die. However, when it is properly watered, it produces juicy, tasty tomatoes.

What do you think our “water” for spiritual growth might be? (Allow response.) Remove the water from the box and show the children. Our “water” for spiritual growth is prayer. Prayer is simply talking to God. It’s having a conversation with God. The cycle of water reminds me of prayer. Water moves from the ground to the sky through the process of evaporation. As water evaporates, it becomes water vapor or steam that returns to the sky forming clouds. This reminds me of our prayers that rise from our hearts and lips up to God. That is one part of the water cycle – one part of the prayer cycle.

What happens as the water vapors continue to collect in the sky? (Allow response.) Answer: it will rain. The next part of the water cycle begins. The water returns to the ground through rain. This reminds me of the other part of the prayer cycle. God wants to speak to us. So as we pray, we should spend time lifting our prayers to God and then listening as God may speak to us. Prayer is talking to God and then listening to God.

Without prayer, our spiritual lives will not grow strong and healthy. Just as the seed or plant will wither and die without water, our spiritual lives will wither and die without prayer. Our newly planted seed needs some water. Select a child to come and pour some water in the pot. There...now our plant can begin to grow strong. Through prayer, we will also grow strong in Christ.

We’ve put the seed in the soil and watered it. Is that all the seed needs to grow? (Allow response.) What else does our seed need in order to grow? (Allow response.) Answer: sunlight. Pull the picture of the sun out of the box. Our seed also needs plenty of sunlight. The sun provides the warmth and nutrients the seed needs to grow. If the plant doesn’t receive the right amount of sunlight, it may become weak and possibly die. That is why we don’t see very many flowers or plants growing during the fall and winter. But when spring comes, the sun begins to shine more and we see flowers, plants and trees grow.

In the same way that sunlight is an important part of helping our seed grow, going to church is an important part of spiritual growth. Church is a place where we can learn about God, worship Him, serve Him and meet other Christians. In church, we can feel the warmth of God’s love and presence as we worship, learn, serve and spend time with other believers. If we do not go to church, our spiritual growth may become weak, wither and then die. Faithful church attendance is an important part of growing in Christ.

In order for our seed to grow and produce tasty tomatoes, you need to plant it in the soil, water it, and allow it the proper amount of sunlight. In the same way, to grow in Christ you need to read the Bible, pray and go to church regularly. In small group time, you will learn more about each of these three important elements of growing strong in Christ. Remember, God wants us to grow to

know Him better.

© Bible Verse

Supplies:

- Bible
- Different colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Clothes pins or tape



Bear fruit in every good thing you do. So we want you to grow to know God better. Colossians 1:10 (NirV)

Purpose: When the verse is taught using actions or an activity, the children will learn the verse easier and will retain it in their memory longer.

Preparation: Cut colored paper in the shape of leaves or fruit (i.e., apples, grapes, oranges, bananas, pears, pineapples, watermelon, pumpkins, etc.). Write one or two words of the verse on each paper shape.

Select 5 to 7 children and have them line up across the front of the room, facing the other children. They should be at least an arm's length away from each other. Have them hold their arms out to their sides as though they were a plant or tree. Beginning with the child on the left (audience view), lightly tape the paper shapes to their arms, or attach them to their sleeves using the clothes pins, putting the verse in proper order from left to right. You will attach 3 or 4 shapes to each of the children's arms or sleeves. Allow them to carefully rest their arms at their sides occasionally so that they do not become too uncomfortable.

Once all the paper shapes are attached and in order, have all of the children say the verse with you. It is helpful to point to each shape as they say the word(s) on it. After saying the verse a few times, remove a few of the verse shapes and say the verse again. Repeat until all of the verse shapes have been removed.

Our verse from God's Word today tells us that we should grow to know God better. This is what God wants us to do and He has given us all we need to grow in Christ. As you go to your small group activities, you will learn more about how to grow to know God better. Before we go, let's say the verse one more time.

Small Group Time

© Small Group Activity #1

Supplies:

- Bible
- Poster board or paper
- Marker

Title: "The Prayer Equation"

Purpose: To teach the children that prayer involves both talking and listening to God.

Preparation: Write the following on the poster board (whiteboard or chalkboard): PRAYER = _____ + _____

How many of you like math? (Allow response.) Today, we are going to work on an addition problem. We can see that the answer to our equation is what? (Allow response.) Answer: Prayer. That's right, the answer to our equation is prayer. So we will call this "The Prayer Equation."

Our prayer equation is missing two words. What word could be used to fill in one of these blanks? (Allow response.) During the object lesson earlier today, we learned that prayer is like the cycle of water. What was one part of the prayer cycle? (Allow response.) Answer: talking to God. One part of prayer is talking to God. So let's write the word "TALKING" in the first blank. Write the word.

God wants to hear from us. Therefore, one part of prayer is simply talking to God. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere. God hears every single prayer that you pray. He doesn't always answer the prayer the way we want, but we can know and trust that He always hears us when we pray.

During prayer, talk to God and tell Him how much you love Him. Talk with Him about your day. Talk with God about your needs or the needs of those you love and care about. Even though God knows what you are thinking and what you need even before you speak, it is still good to share those things with Him through prayer.

Is talking the only part of the prayer cycle or prayer equation? (Allow response.) What is the other part of prayer? (Allow response.) Answer: listening for God to speak. As we pray, we need to listen for God to speak. So let's write "LISTENING" in the other blank.

God wants to speak to you. He doesn't often speak in a loud, booming voice from heaven. Most of the time, God speaks quietly to us through our feelings or thoughts. If you have a personal example of how God has spoken to you, tell the children your story. I am so glad that we serve a God who desires to speak with us. That shows us that God wants to have a relationship with us.

Our prayer equation is now completed. PRAYER equals (=) TALKING plus (+) LISTENING. If you want to grow to know God better, spend time each day in prayer. You can spend a few minutes talking to God about your needs and the needs of others and then spend a few moments in silence and listen for God to speak to you. Praying each day helps us to grow in our relationship with God.

© Small Group Activity #2

Supplies:

- Bible
- Simple building toy, game or object that requires an instruc-

Title: "Read the Instruction Manual"

Purpose: To teach the children how God's Word, the Bible, is the instruction manual for living a Christian life.

tion manual.

➔ **Optional:** if using a game play a few rounds.

Preparation: Gather a simple building toy (i.e., Lego, Mega Block, etc.), model, game or any object that requires an instruction manual.

This activity example uses a Lego building blocks toy. Pour all of the pieces out on the table or floor so the kids can see them. **How many of you have built something using blocks like these?** (Allow response). **What do I need that will help me turn this pile of pieces into this shape?** Point to the picture on the front of the box. Remove the instruction manual or booklet from the container or box.

The instruction manual gives me step-by-step directions of how to put this toy together. Without this manual it would be difficult or perhaps impossible to properly build the toy. This instruction manual shows me how each piece fits together to form the completed shape. Let's follow the instructions and put this toy together as a group. Allow each child to participate in building the toy by letting them take turns doing one of the steps.

When the toy has been built, tell the children what a great job they did putting it together. Then ask: **Would it have been easy to build this toy without using the manual?** (Allow response.) **What could have happened if we didn't follow the manual?** (Allow response.) **What other projects or things have you done that require an instruction manual?** Allow the children to share examples of how they have used instruction manuals.

Did you know that growing as a Christian also requires an instruction manual? Who can tell me what the Christian's instruction manual is? (Allow response.) Answer: the Bible. **How is the Bible like an instruction manual?** (Allow response.) Possible answers: it tells us how to live for God, shows us how to grow as a Christian, etc. **The Bible contains God's commands or rules, stories of people who followed God, and the teachings of Jesus Christ and His followers. As we read the Bible, we begin to understand how to live like a Christian. Reading God's Word, the Bible, helps us to grow to know God better.**

For additional discussion, read Matthew 7:24-27 and talk about how obeying Jesus' teaching found in the Bible will help us grow strong in our Christian faith and life.

© Small Group Activity #3

Supplies:

- Bible
- Several sheets of paper
- Scissors
- Pencils or pens

Title: "A Place to Grow"

Purpose: To help the children understand why we go to church.

Preparation: Make copies of the "church" pattern on page 15, one for each child in the group. Cut one piece of paper into smaller pieces. On each piece of paper, write the name of a building or place. See exam-

- ❑ Two small bags
- ❑ Copies of church pattern from page 15

ples below. Put the piece of paper with the word “church” on it in your pocket. Divide the remaining words equally and place them in two bags.

Places: church, hospital, library, airport, hotel, supermarket, restaurant, bank, gas station, school, shopping mall, courthouse, beauty salon, park, post office, etc.

Divide the children into two teams – Team A and Team B. **We are going to play a game called “Places To Go”. In this bag, there are small pieces of paper with the name of a place written on each one. Team A will go first. On your team’s turn, one of you will reach into the bag and pick one piece of paper. Be careful not to show anyone your paper. When I say “GO”, you will give clues that describe the place written on your paper. However, you cannot say the word or any form of it while giving the clues. You will have thirty seconds to try to make your team say your place. If they guess it within the thirty seconds, your team will score one point. Then Team B takes a turn. The game continues until all of the words have been used. The team with the most points wins.** Play the game. You will need to act as judge to make sure each team is playing correctly during their turn.

After the game, say: **You have guessed a lot of places correctly. I have one more place for you to guess.** Take the piece of paper with the word “church” written on it from your pocket. Give the following clues until the children guess it correctly.

- Clue 1: This place doesn’t have to be in a building.
- Clue 2: This place is made of people.
- Clue 3: This place helps people to grow.
- Clue 4: This place teaches from a very important Book.
- Clue 5: This is a place to learn the Truth.
- Clue 6: This is a place where we can serve.
- Clue 7: This is a place of worship.
- Clue 8: This is a place where we learn about God.

The Bible tells us the purpose of the church in Acts 2:42-47. Read this passage aloud or have the children take turns reading a verse from the passage. **What were some of the purposes of the church that were mentioned in this passage of scripture?** Allow the children to respond. Have them look at the passage again if they need help. Answers: teaching from the Bible (Apostle’s doctrine), fellowship (being with other Christian friends), breaking bread (Communion), prayer, caring for others needs, worship (praising God), and witnessing (the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved).

The church is a place that helps us to grow to know God better. In church, we can learn about God, worship God, pray to God, and serve God. Hand out the papers with the church pattern. Tell the children to fold their paper in half (on the dotted line) and cut along the solid line. When the paper is unfolded, it will create a shape representing the church. On the blank side of the church, have the children draw pictures of things they can do at church.

© Bible Verse Review

Supplies:

- Bible
- 10-20 Plastic, Paper or Styrofoam cups
- Marker or pen

Bear fruit in every good thing you do. So we want you to grow to know God better. Colossians 1:10 (NirV)

Purpose: To review the Scripture Verse and encourage the children to memorize it.

Game: “The Growing Verse ”

Preparation: Divide the verse (including the verse reference) into 10 segments (one or two words per segment). Turn a cup upside down (opening down) and write the first two words of the verse on it. Turn the next cup right-side up (opening up) and write the next two words. Continue this process of alternating the cups position and write the remaining verse segments. Make two sets (10 each).

Activity Instructions: Review the verse a few times by having the children say the verse with you. Divide the group into two teams (Team A and B). Give each team a set of cups. When you say “GO”, the teams race to see who can build the “Growing Verse” the fastest. The “Growing Verse” is built by stacking the cups on top of each other, opening to opening and base to base, until the verse is in order from top to bottom.

Lead the children in saying the “Growing Verse” a few more times.

© Life Application

Supplies:

- PowerMark Seeker Series #6 “Pathway” books (one for each child)
- Pencils or pens

Purpose: To find ways to apply this lesson to daily living and encourage the children to change their lives in order to live the way God wants them to live.

If the children have not yet read this book, take time to read the book as a group. Here are some ways to read the book together:

- You read the book aloud as the children follow along.
- The children can take turns reading. Each child reads one page.
- You can assign the children to read the parts of particular character(s) (PowerMark, Yaro, Shanti, Amber, Mr. Bala, etc.)
- The children can read the book on their own, quietly.

After reading the book, ask the following questions. Have the children raise their hand if they want to answer a question. Only one child should answer at a time. Make sure the discussion is not dominated by only one or two children. Encourage all of the children to be involved in the discussion.

Be careful not to approach this time as a test with you, the leader, ask-

ing questions and the children giving the correct answer. Instead, spend the time in a conversational manner with the children. Listen to what the children have to say about the book, especially the Bible portion of the story. By listening you will be able to assess how well they understand the gospel presentation through the Seeker's Series.

1. **What was MindFree's plan to stop PowerMark from teaching the Seekers about Christianity?** *They crashed the ICC's network (page 1-2).*
2. **What was keeping Shanti from becoming a Christian?** *She was having a hard time believing that Jesus was the only way to God (page 5).*
3. **When Lu prayed the prayer of salvation, what did he feel for the first time in his life?** *He felt at peace (page 6).*
4. **Beni had felt something when he prayed, too. What was it?** *He said life feels right and he feels clean (page 6).*
5. **When a person becomes a Christian, what are a few goals he or she should try to meet?** *To know God, live like God wants you to, and glorify God (page 9).*
6. **What does it mean to glorify God?** *It means to worship God and put Him first in your life (page 9).*
7. **Why is reading God's Word important?** *It helps us to grow as a Christian and shows us how God wants us to live and what we should do (page 9).*
8. **Why is it important to go to church?** *The leaders can help you understand what God's Word says (page 9).*

Next week, we'll learn more about how to live a Christian life.

Answers to the questions on the last page:

1. When you become a Christian, you should try to live up to certain goals. These goals are to know God, to live like God wants, and to **glorify** God. (page 9)
2. God gave us the **Bible** to help us know his **plan** for our lives. (page 9)
3. We talk to God through **prayer**. (page 10)
4. When **Jesus** was here on earth, He taught us how to pray by giving us an **example**. Today we call that prayer "The Lord's Prayer." (page 10)
5. When we read the Bible and pray everyday, we grow **closer** to **God**. The closer we are to God the easier it is to know what He wants us to do and how to **obey** Him. (page 11)
6. God is pleased when we **read** His Word, **talk** to Him through prayer, and **follow** His commands. (page 11)
7. When you don't **obey** God, you make the Holy Spirit of God that lives inside you sad. (page 13)
8. When you sin, you need to repent and ask God for **forgiveness**.

(page 13)

9. At **church** you can learn more about God and also meet Christian friends. (page 13)
10. We can show people God's **love** by loving and **caring** for them. (page 14)

© Closing Prayer

Take some time to briefly explain the way of salvation through Jesus, God's Son. Pray with the students that they will grow strong in their Christian faith through prayer, reading the Bible and attending church.

End the small group time in prayer. Instruct the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask if anyone would like to ask Jesus to take away their sin. Lead those that respond in a salvation prayer. Break the prayer into small phrases and have the children repeat the prayer after you. Here is a sample prayer of salvation:

**Dear God,
I am sorry for all of my sin.
Please forgive me...
For all of the wrong things...
I have done, said, and thought.
I believe Jesus died on the cross...
So my sins could be taken away...
And He came back to life...
Three days later.
Please come into my life...
And help me love You...
And live like You want me to live.
Thank You for taking my sin away...
And loving me.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

In addition to the prayer of salvation, allow time for the children to share prayer requests or praise reports. After they have shared, pray for their needs and praise God for their praise reports. You can also have the children volunteer to pray for each others' needs. As you are praying, summarize what was learned today.

Bible Lesson
"The Vine and the Branches"



Small Group Activity #3

"A Place to Grow"

Church Pattern

To create the church shape:

1. Fold along the dotted line
2. Cut along the solid line
3. Unfold
4. Use the side without the dotted line to draw on

