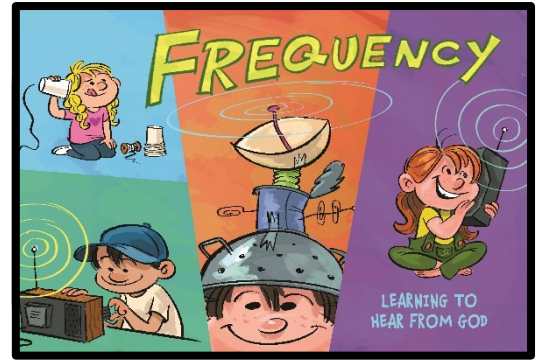


2nd & 3rd Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: Connection Challenge

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to move around the room while you call out fun actions, such as hopping, tiptoeing, walking backward, or moving in slow motion.
- At any time, call out, “**Connect in ____!**” and say a number from two to five.
- Kids quickly form groups with that number of people and connect safely by touching elbows, shoulders, or shoes.
- Once connected, give each group a quick question to answer:
 - What is your favorite fruit?
 - What is your favorite color?
 - What is your favorite snack?
 - What is your favorite game?
 - What is your favorite pizza topping?
 - Do you like summer or winter?
 - Do you like pancakes or waffles?
 - Do you like sweet snacks or salty snacks?
- Continue with new movements, group sizes, and questions.
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What You Say:

You had to listen carefully and stay connected to your group! Jesus said He is like a vine and we are like branches. A branch can grow only when it stays connected to the vine. We can stay close to God by talking to Him, learning from the Bible, worshiping Him, and doing what He says. Today we’ll learn that **I can grow when I stay close to God.**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: The Vine and the Branches • John 15:1-11

Bottom Line: I can grow when I stay close to God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27
NirV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **What helps you be close to Jesus?**
- Jesus said He is like a vine. What grows on a vine?
- Why do we need to stay close to Jesus?
- What can you do this week to stay close to Jesus?

Activity Name: Fruit or No Fruit

What You Need: ☐ Fruit/No Fruit Cards

What You Say:

We're going to play a game called "Fruit or No Fruit?" Listen carefully to each situation I read, then decide: Does this show fruit growing in someone's life, or not? (**Hold up the "Fruit" side.**) Before we start, let's talk about what "fruit" really means. When the Bible talks about fruit, it doesn't mean apples or bananas! It means the good things people can see in your life—things like being kind, telling the truth, helping others, and choosing to do what is right. That's what we mean by fruit. (**Hold up the "No Fruit" side.**) "No Fruit" means choices that don't show those things—like being unkind, selfish, or ignoring what God says. So as we play, listen carefully and decide: Does this show fruit growing in someone's life, or not? Ready? Let's try one together.

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Fruit" and "No Fruit" card.
- **Practice round:**
 - "Helping a friend who is hurt."
 - Allow kids to respond.
 - Say: "That's right! That's fruit! When we stay connected to Jesus, we grow things like kindness and love."
- **Round 1**
 - "Being kind to your brother or sister."
 - "Yes – fruit! Choosing kindness is always the right choice."
- **Round 2**
 - "Ignoring someone who needs help."
 - "Right – no fruit. That choice would not show love."
- **Round 3**
 - "Taking time to pray."
 - "That's fruit! That is an amazing way to stay connected to God."
- **Round 4**
 - "Only thinking about yourself."
 - "That's not fruit. That isn't how Jesus teaches us to live!"
- **Round 5**
 - "Telling the truth, even when it's hard."
 - "Yes, we show fruit when we are honest."
- **Round 6**
 - "Choosing not to listen to what God says."
 - "You're right, that would be no fruit. We don't want to miss what God is showing us!"
- **Round 7**
 - "Asking someone who is alone if they want to play with you."
 - "Fruit! What a great way to show kindness."
- **Round 8**
 - "Forgiving someone when they hurt your feelings."
 - "Yes, this is showing fruit too! Forgiving can be hard, but when we stay connected to Jesus, He helps us."

What You Say:

You made some really thoughtful choices in that game. Jesus said that when we stay connected to Him, our lives will begin to show it—not just in what we say, but in how we live. Those “fruit” moments we talked about, like kindness, honesty, and forgiveness, don’t come from just trying harder. They come from staying close to Jesus. When we listen to Him, spend time with Him, and follow what He says, He begins to change us from the inside out. That means when you choose what is right—even when it’s hard—that’s a sign that God is at work in you. And when it’s difficult, that doesn’t mean you’ve failed! It just means it’s a moment to come back and stay close. Talk to God and ask Him to help you. Because real growth doesn’t happen all at once. Just like real fruit doesn’t grow on trees overnight! You might notice that growth in small ways—like choosing kindness, telling the truth, or having patience when something is hard. It happens little by little as you stay connected. ***[Bottom Line]* I can grow when I stay close to God.**

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.