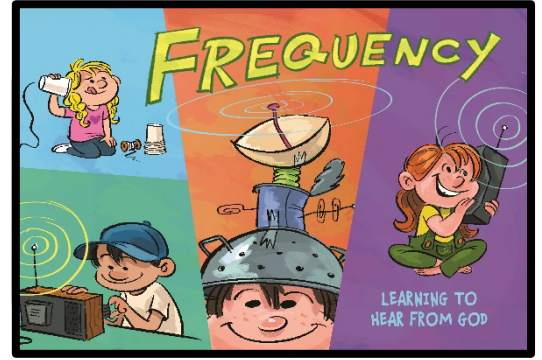




Kinder & 1st Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: Grow, Don't Grow

What You Need: ☐ none needed

What You Do:

- Have the kids stand up and spread out.
- Explain the game: "We're going to play 'Grow, Don't Grow.' When I call out something that helps us stay close to Jesus and grow, I want you to shout 'GROW!' and jump up as tall as you can. If I call out something that does NOT help us grow, I want you to shout, 'DON'T GROW!' and fall to the ground dramatically."
- Make it silly and fast-paced. Call out the following examples:
 - "Reading your Bible!" (Grow!)
 - "Being mean to your brother!" (Don't grow!)
 - "Talking to Jesus in prayer!" (Grow!)
 - "Ignoring God all day!" (Don't grow!)
 - "Singing worship songs!" (Grow!)
 - "Thinking only about yourself!" (Don't grow!)
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

Great job! You know exactly what helps us grow closer to God. In our story today, Jesus talks about how we are like branches on a vine, and we need the right things to grow, too. Let's go find out what He means!

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: Standing Sheep Verse

What You Need: ☐ Bibles ☐ Sheep cutouts ☐ Cotton balls ☐ Glue sticks ☐ Coloring supplies

What You Say:

Today, we are making standing sheep to help us remember our Memory Verse. Sheep listen to their shepherd's voice, and we can listen to Jesus, too.

What You Do:

- Pass out Bibles marked at John 10:27.
- Read and repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each child a "Standing Sheep" Activity Page to decorate with coloring supplies.
- Encourage kids to glue cotton balls to the blank side of the sheep.
- Point out how the verse is written on the body of the sheep and how the sheep can stand.

What You Say:

Your sheep look wonderful! This verse reminds us that Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. A good shepherd always keeps his sheep close to him so they can grow and be safe. It's the same with Jesus. He wants us to stay close to Him so we can grow! As you read more in the Bible about who God is and what Jesus is like, you'll become more familiar with what Jesus sounds like. Reading the Bible and memorizing His Word will help you stay close and connected to Jesus.

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.