

HANDS-ON FAITH

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The more we trust Jesus, the more our faith grows.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will pick an activity to do this week to grow their faith.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:1-23, The Parable of the Sower

MEMORY VERSE:

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Jesus used science to teach about faith when he told the parable about the sower. Kids will learn the more we trust Jesus, the stronger our faith will grow.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us grow strong in our faith.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

HANDS-ON FAITH

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

An empty plastic soda or water bottle
1/2 cup of vinegar
A small balloon
Baking soda
A funnel

Directions:

Pour the vinegar into the bottle.

Stretch the balloon a few times to loosen it up. Insert the funnel into the balloon and fill it half way with baking soda.

Very carefully, slip the open end of the balloon securely over the mouth of the bottle without letting any baking soda into the bottle.

When you are all set, lift the balloon and release the baking soda into the bottle. Stand back and watch the balloon inflate all on its own!

To see a video of this experiment, you can visit this website:

<https://sciencebob.com/build-a-fizz-inflator/>

Application:

There's a chemical reaction that takes place when baking soda mixes with vinegar. Gas is released when the two materials mix, and that gas is what causes the balloon to grow.

This little experiment is a great illustration of what happens when we trust Jesus. Instead of letting our faith sit and waste away, when we trust Jesus, our faith only grows. Faith leads to greater trust, and greater trust to greater faith.

God wants us to grow closer to Jesus. He wants us to surrender more and more to him each day. We can surrender and trust Jesus because we know he is God's Son, and he is good!

HANDS-ON FAITH

LARGE GROUP GAME

THE GREAT BALLOON RACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Balloons

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three players for this game. Give each player a balloon. The players will inflate the balloons as much as they can or want, and then release them toward the audience. The player whose balloon travels the farthest wins a prize.

VARIATION:

Have some adult leaders inflate the balloons for smaller children.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

When we trust Jesus, our faith grows, just like our balloons.

HANDS-ON FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever helped your parents plant and grow things in a garden?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Hebrews 11:1

Have each kid read the memory verse in the voice of their favorite Muppet.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have everyone ball up like a tiny seed, and then walk them through the progression of a plant growing out of the soil. Stick one hand up, reaching up, then the other. Slowly, start to stand, to reach out, and to “grow” until you’ve all grown into big trees!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 13:1-23

What was the story Jesus told about faith?

Why did some of the seeds fail to grow?

What made the seed in the good soil different?

How can we help our faith to grow?

What is one thing you can do this week to make your faith grow?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us hearts that want to grow and be more like you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

HANDS-ON FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever helped your parents plant and grow things in a garden?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Hebrews 11:1

Have each kid read the memory verse in the voice of their favorite Muppet.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have everyone ball up like a tiny seed, and then walk them through the progression of a plant growing out of the soil. Stick one hand up, reaching up, then the other. Slowly, start to stand, to reach out, and to “grow” until you’ve all grown into big trees!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 13:1-23

What is a parable?

Why did some of the seeds in this parable fail to grow?

Why did the good soil succeed when no one else did?

What are some ways we can grow our faith?

What is one thing you can do this week to make your faith grow?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us hearts that want to grow and be more like you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

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POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

A parable is a story that teaches a lesson.

TRUE

Jesus told a parable about a farmer sowing seed.

TRUE

Only the seed sown in the good soil grows strong.

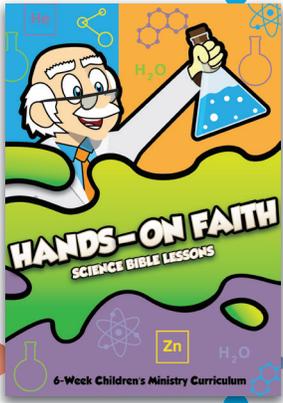
TRUE

We can feed our faith on Bible study and prayer.

TRUE

There's nothing we can do to affect how our faith grows.

FALSE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Hands-On Faith Lesson 4

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: FAITH CAN GROW



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home: Jesus used science to teach about faith when he told the parable about the sower. The more we trust Jesus, the stronger our faith will grow. Matthew 13:1-23, The Parable of the Sower



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Do this week's experiment at home with the kids, and then ask them what this experiment has to do with what we learned about growing our faith.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What was the parable of the sower and the seeds about?
- What made the seed in the good soil grow better than the other seeds?
- What can we do to "water" and grow our faith?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)*



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Faith doesn't grow on its own. It needs to be nurtured, just like a seed in the soil. Ask God to help your kids grow their faith through Bible study, prayer, and worship.