Bible Point

God Makes Things Grow

Bible Verse

God makes things grow (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will
- learn that God makes all things grow,
- discover different plants that God helps grow, and
- explore some of the ways that God helps things grow.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- God makes plants grow.

Psalms
65:9-13;
104:14; 147:8;
Matthew
6:25-30

The texts in this module are a celebration of God’s beautiful creation. In much of the world today, people live in urban areas. Urbanization is a major cause of pollution and rapid depletion of the earth’s natural resources. But there is another, often overlooked, drawback to urbanization. The children who grow up in the inner cities have fewer and fewer opportunities to experience the wonders of creation. Caterpillars, cocoons, and butterflies. Sweeping pine forests. Clear flowing streams and mirror lakes. The children you teach today might not have many opportunities to experience such things, or perhaps some who do have learned to take them for granted. As teachers, we need to see the world as an opportunity to see the glory of the God who created all things. Help your children see that the wonder of creation is a tribute to the wonderful Creator who made it all.

Prayer
- Read: Genesis 2:8-9a.
- What is the most beautiful, lush place you’ve ever visited? How do you think the Garden of Eden must have compared?
- When are times when witnessing the beauty of nature leads you to praise God?
- Pray: Lord, what a wonderful artist you are. You created the world to be so beautiful. Help me and the children I teach see your beauty in it every day.

Before the Lesson
- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
## This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

■ Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

• Play “God Makes Things Grow” (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) from the CD as children are arriving.
• Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
• Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
• Say: Today we’re going to learn that God makes things grow.
• Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

■ Option 1: Leaf Prints

SUPPLIES: crayons; white paper; leaves from trees, flowers, or other plants

Before class, collect leaves from trees, flowers, or other plants.

Set crayons and the leaves on a table. Give each child a sheet of white paper. Invite children to place their leaves under their papers and then rub over them with crayons. As children rub, tracings of the leaves will show through the paper. Encourage children to use different leaves and crayon colors to create more rubbings. As children work, make comments such as “Leaves grow on trees, and God helps them grow” and “Some leaves grow big, and some are smaller.” Tell children that today they’ll learn how God makes things grow.

■ Option 2: Block Garden

SUPPLIES: small building blocks, large construction paper scraps or newspaper

Set out small building blocks and large scraps of construction paper or newspaper. Invite children to create a field of flowers. Show children how to build flower “stems” by stacking two or three blocks. Then let children crumple paper to make “blossoms” to set on top of the stems. As children work, ask questions such as “Do these flowers smell good? Why not?” and “Where do real flowers grow?” Say that today children will learn that God makes things grow.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”
Lesson 1

**Sing**

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
It's time to stop our play.

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**Bible Story Time**

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

**BIBLE VERSE**

Say: **Who makes things grow?** God makes things grow!

How do we know? The Bible tells us so in 1 Corinthians 3.

Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's learn a fun song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**Sing**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!

Say: The Bible is God’s special book. In the Bible, we can read all about how God makes things grow. God helps you grow and God helps me grow.


Say: It's important to learn about the Bible because the Bible is God's special story. Let's sing a fun song all about the Bible! Lead children in singing “The Bible Is God's Special Book” (track 11) with the CD. Play the song several times, if possible. Lyrics are on page 24.

Say: **God makes things grow,** and we can learn all about how God does that in the Bible. Let's learn more!
Bible Story: God Makes Things Grow

SUPPLIES: water, flashlight, puffed-corn cereal

Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. Also, fill the little fish squirter from Sensory Pak 3 with water, and set it behind the StoryBoard along with a flashlight. Place puffed-corn cereal in the basket on Panel 3, and have extra cereal ready to give to the children.

The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1
Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: Today we’ll learn that God makes things grow. Point to Panel 1. Who can find the trees? Have a child point to the trees. Trees grow big and tall. Raise your arms like tall trees. Pause for children to respond. Some trees grow good fruit like apples and oranges.

We can smell the fruits. Hold the StoryBoard. Let children scratch and sniff the fruit stickers.

Ask: How do the fruits smell? (Good; yummy.)

Say: God makes trees grow. God also makes grapes grow. Who can find the grapes? Choose a child to point to the grapes. Grapevines have green leaves to touch. Have each child touch the leaf. Grapevines grow leaves, and they also grow fruit. They grow grapes!

Ask: How do grapes taste? (Sweet; cold; good.)

Say: God makes things grow. God makes trees and fruit and leaves grow. What else grows? Crops grow. Point to the wheat field and the stalk. Crops grow so we can have food to eat. Isn’t it nice that God grows good things to eat? Let’s touch the wheat. Hold the StoryBoard down so children can touch the stalk of wheat.

Ask: How does the wheat feel? (Pokey; it tickles.)

Point to each picture as you say: Trees grow, grapes grow, leaves grow, stalks of wheat grow. God helps them grow by giving them rain. Do you see rain clouds? We can point to them and feel the rain, too. Have children point to the clouds. Then use the little fish squirter to spray a light mist above the children’s heads. Doesn’t the rain feel nice? God makes things grow by giving them rain. But where’s the sunshine? Let’s find the sun.

Panel 2
Hold the StoryBoard so children see Panels 1 and 2.

Say: Put your finger on your nose if you see the sun. Pause for children to respond. There’s the sun! It’s in the sky. Let’s help the sun shine really bright. Shine a flashlight behind the sun. Oh! It’s so bright! Cover your eyes to show how bright the sun is.
Lesson 1

BIBLE POINT

God makes things grow by giving them rain and sunshine. What else grows? Animals grow! Can you find the cow and give it a pat? Hold the StoryBoard down so children can pat the cow and ring the cowbell.

Ask: • What does a cow feel like? (Soft; nice.)
• What other animals grow? Pause for children to share their ideas.

Then point to the chicken on Panel 2. Say: Chickens grow. Let’s touch the chicken’s feather. Have children touch the feather.

Little chicks peep like this: “Peep, peep, peep.” Make a sound like a chick. Pause. But when chickens grow up, they sound like this: “Cluck, cluck, cluuck!” Let’s cluck like chickens. Lead children in making chicken sounds.

My, you sounded like real chickens in our room! Chickens and cows grow because they eat plants that grow. God makes things grow, and he makes plants grow to feed animals. Let’s see what else grows.

Panel 3

Fold the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 3. Say: Here’s a family in their kitchen.

Ask: • Who’s at the dinner table? (A mommy; a daddy; a baby; a cat.)

Say: There’s a mommy, a daddy, and a little baby. God makes things grow, and he makes people grow, too. God helps people grow by giving them good food to eat. I think the people in this family are ready to eat dinner. Let’s help them say a prayer to thank God for their food. Fold your hands and bow your heads.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for our food. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Now let’s peek in the basket and see what they’re eating. Let each child peek in the basket. Then give each child a few pieces of cereal to eat.

Ask: • How did the corn cereal taste? (Good; crunchy.)

Point to the daddy. Say: The daddy is going to eat some corn. We can touch the yellow corn. Have the children touch the corn.

Ask: • What color is the corn? (Yellow; gold.)

Say: Corn is good to eat. God makes plants grow so we can have good food. Point to the baby in the picture. Babies are too little for crunchy cereal and corn, aren’t they? Babies need milk to help them grow. Let’s feed the baby pretend milk to help the baby grow big and strong. Let children take turns “feeding” the baby with the baby bottle from Sensory Packet 1.

When everyone’s had a turn, say: Thank you for feeding the baby. Babies grow, and you’re growing, too! God loves us so he makes us grow big and strong. Another way God shows how much he loves us is by giving us Jesus. God sent his Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. When we believe in Jesus, not only will he be our best friend here on earth, but we can live with him in heaven someday. I’m so glad God sent Jesus!

Let’s give a big cheer to thank God for sending Jesus. Lead children in cheering for God.

Now let’s sing a song about how God makes things grow.
“God Makes Things Grow” Song

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Makes Things Grow” (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses as you sing.

**SING**

Trees and bees both big and small (stand up high; then bend low).
God’s the one who makes them all. (Spread arms wide.)
God makes things grow every day (squat down; then slowly rise up)
And cares for them in lots of ways. (Place hands on heart.)
God makes things grow. (Hold arms out at sides.)
God makes things grow. (Raise arms higher.)
God makes things grow (raise arms higher)
Because he loves us so. (Place hands on heart.)

I am growing big and tall. (Stand on tiptoe.)
I’m bouncing up just like a ball! (Jump in the air.)
God helps us grow every day (squat down; then slowly rise up)
And cares for us in lots of ways. (Place hands on heart.)
God makes things grow. (Hold arms out at sides.)
God makes things grow. (Raise arms higher.)
God makes things grow (raise arms higher)
Because he loves us so. (Place hands on heart.)

Say: God makes plants grow big and tall. Let’s play a growing game right now!

**Bible Activities**

**Time to Grow!**

**SUPPLIES:** two feet of clear fishing line, brown paper lunch bag, brown tissue paper, flashlight, water

Before class, tie the piece of clear fishing line to the top of the garden veggie. Place the veggie inside the brown paper lunch bag, allowing the fishing line to hang out of the bag. Surround the veggie with crumpled pieces of brown tissue paper. The bag will represent soil in the garden, and the bag’s opening will be the hole in which the veggie is planted. Fill the fish squirter with water.

Say: God makes things grow. God makes all of the plants and trees and flowers and vegetables and fruits grow. Let’s pretend to plant a seed in our class today. See this paper bag? Let’s pretend this is the dirt in our garden. The opening of the bag can be a hole we’ve dug in the ground. Let’s pretend to plant a seed in our dirt!
Pretend to hand each child a seed, and have children take turns placing their imaginary seeds in the bag. Make sure the veggie remains hidden beneath the tissue paper.

Say: **Good. Now we’ve planted our seeds.**

Ask:  
- **What do seeds need to grow?** (Water; sunshine; a farmer.)
- **How does God help the seeds grow?** (He makes rain; he makes sunshine; he helps the farmers.)

Say: **God uses water and dirt and sunshine to help the seeds grow. Let’s water our seeds.** Gently squirt a little water from the *fish squirter* into the bag.

Now let’s give our seeds some sunlight. Turn on the flashlight, and shine it in the bag. Let the children take turns shining the light in the paper bag.

Let’s see what happens. Carefully hold the fishing line. Gently pull on the fishing line to make the *garden veggie* come slowly to the top of the bag. As the veggie begins to emerge from the paper bag, make excited comments.

**Wow! It looks like our plant is growing!**

When the *garden veggie* is completely in view, let children name the vegetable. Then show the children the fishing line and explain how the plant “grew.” Allow the children to take turns gently pulling the veggie out of the bag with the fishing line to “watch it grow.”

Ask:  
- **Did this veggie really grow?** Explain. (No, because it’s not real; no, because we pulled it out of the bag.)
- **What does a real vegetable need to grow?** (Water; sunshine; dirt.)
- **How does God make real vegetables grow?** (He makes the sunshine; he sends the rain.)

Say: **Our veggie was only pretend. And a real vegetable doesn’t grow as fast as our pretend one. We used this fishing line to help our veggie grow. But it was fun to watch our pretend veggie grow, wasn’t it?**

Ask:  
- **What’s your favorite vegetable to eat?** (Carrots, corn, potatoes.)
- **Who makes those vegetables grow?** (God does.)
- **Who makes everything grow?** (God does!)

Say: **Now let’s make a bulletin board with lots of plants to help us remember that God makes things grow.**
**Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**

**SUPPLIES:** white, blue, and brown paper; scissors; tape; crayons or markers; silk flower; farmer and flower patterns (p. 23)

Before class, cover the top portion of your bulletin board with blue paper and the lower portion with brown. Add a few white paper clouds. Photocopy the patterns of the farmer and the flowers found at the end of this lesson. Cut out a flower for each child. Color the picture of the farmer, and tape it to the center of the bulletin board or wall. Attach a silk flower to Cuddles’ “hand.”

Lead children to the bulletin board. Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding a silk flower.

**Teacher:** Hi, Cuddles. What do you have there?

**Cuddles:** I have a delicious flower. *(Pretends to nibble the silk flower.)* Would you like a bite? It’s so good!

**Teacher:** No, thank you, Cuddles. Lambs like to eat flowers, but children don’t eat them. We’ve been learning today that **God makes things grow.** And we learned that God makes flowers grow, too.

**Cuddles:** Yep. And flowers are great to nibble on. *(Looks at the farmer on the bulletin board.)* Hey! I know him! He’s a farmer, and he takes care of plants and lambs like me!

**Teacher:** That’s right, Cuddles. We’re going to add plants and flowers for the farmer to care for. Would you like to help us?

**Cuddles:** Yes. I can hand out pictures of flowers because I know all about them—real flowers are good to eat!

_Have Cuddles hand a paper flower to each child. Help children tape their pictures in garden rows beside the farmer. Each time a picture is placed, help everyone say: **God makes things grow.**_

**Teacher:** The farmer takes care of the plants, but **God makes things grow.** God made the dirt and he sends the sunshine and rain to help the plants grow big and tall. Let’s sing a song about how God helps plants and other things grow.

_Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him._
Lesson 1

**Sing It Out**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Makes Things Grow” (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” The lyrics and motions are on page 17.

After the song, lead children in a round of applause for everyone’s singing. Then say: God created the trees, flowers, and plants. And **God makes things grow.** Let’s make a special plant picture to help us remember that!

**Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** white craft glue, paper, green crayons, scissors, bowl of puffed-corn cereal, name tags (p. 8)

Before class make additional photocopies of the flower name tags. Glue a flower on a sheet of paper for each child.

Set out green crayons, white craft glue, and a bowl of puffed-corn cereal. Hand each child a flower paper. Help children glue cereal to the petals. Then let the children scribble-draw stems and leaves. Be sure to write children’s names on their papers. As children work, ask questions such as “Who makes flowers grow?” and “What colors are flowers?” Be sure to let children nibble some cereal as they work.

When everyone has finished, let children hold up their pictures. Say: **God makes things grow.** He makes flowers grow, and God makes corn grow, too. Let’s learn a fun rhyme about a special kind of corn!

**Bible Game**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Lead children in the following rhyme. Repeat the rhyme two times very slowly.

Pop, pop, pop! (Hop up and down.)
Pour the corn into the pot. (Make pouring motions.)
Pop, pop, pop! (Hop up and down.)
Shake and shake until it’s hot. (Pretend to shake a pot back and forth.)
Pop, pop, pop! (Hop up and down.)
Lift the lid—what have we got? (Lift a pretend pot lid.)
Pop, pop, pop, pop, POPCORN! (Hop up and down.)
Closing

Thankful Things

SUPPLIES: silk flower from Interactive Bible Bulletin Board activity, applesauce, plastic spoons, napkins

Hold up the silk flower from the Interactive Bible Bulletin Board activity. Say:

We’ve been learning that God makes things grow. We learned that God makes plants and trees and flowers grow. Let’s pass this pretty flower to each other and tell God thank you for making things grow. Each time a child holds the flower, help him or her say, “Thank you, God.” Then set the flower aside.

Let’s say a prayer to thank God for helping things grow. Fold your hands.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for making everything grow. In Jesus’ name, amen.

We know that God makes plants and trees grow. Let’s eat something that comes from yummy fruit that grows on trees. Help children wash their hands. Then hand each child an individual serving of applesauce, a plastic spoon, and a napkin. As children enjoy their snacks, talk about other foods that grow on trees, such as oranges and pears. When children have finished, encourage them to throw their trash in the wastebasket.

Remind children to take home their puffed-corn flowers and leaf prints (if they made them).

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Parent Page” handout (p. 10) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module’s topic.
Lesson 1

**For Extra Time**

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Popcorn Rhyme**
  
  Have fun repeating the rhyme children learned in the Bible Game. Hop up and down on the words “pop, pop, pop.”
  
  Pop, pop, pop! *(Hop up and down.)*
  Pour the corn into the pot. *(Make pouring motions.)*
  Pop, pop, pop! *(Hop up and down.)*
  Shake and shake until it’s hot. *(Pretend to shake a pot back and forth.)*
  Pop, pop, pop! *(Hop up and down.)*
  Lift the lid—what have we got? *(Lift a pretend pot lid.)*
  Pop, pop, pop, pop, POPCORN! *(Hop up and down.)*

- **Sunflowers ’n’ Buttercups**
  
  Help children learn the concepts of short and tall with this simple game. Tell children that buttercups are tiny flowers that stay near the ground and that sunflowers are tall like mommies and daddies. Explain that whenever you say “sunflowers,” the children will stand on tall tiptoes. And when you say “buttercups,” they’ll squat down short. Alternate saying “sunflowers” and “buttercups.” If you have older toddlers in your class, let them take turns being the caller.
Patterns
Lyrics

Jonah Tried to Hide

Jonah tried to hide, but God still saw him.
Jonah tried to hide, but God still saw him.
Jonah tried to hide, but God still saw him.
He sees us all the time.
The fish swallowed Jonah, but God still saw him.
The fish swallowed Jonah, but God still saw him.
The fish swallowed Jonah, but God still saw him.
He sees us all the time.
Jonah prayed to God, and then God answered.
Jonah prayed to God, and then God answered.
Jonah prayed to God, and then God answered.
The fish spit Jonah out.
Ptooie!

The Bible Is God’s Special Book

Chorus:
Hallelujah! Sing it loud!
The Bible is God’s special book.
Hallelujah! Sing it loud!
The Bible is God’s special book.
Hallelujah! Sing it loud!
Come with me and take a look.
One, two, ready, go!

Verse 1:
Genesis!
It’s a great place to start,
With Adam and Eve
And Noah and the Ark.
(Splish, splash.)
Psalms! (Psalms!)
It’s written from the heart,
Songs that David
Played upon his harp.
(Pring, pring.)

(Sing chorus.)
One, two, ready, go!

Verse 2:
Daniel!
God shut the lion’s mouth.
Jonah!
A big fish spit him out.
(Ptooie!)
Then there’s Matthew,
Mark, Luke, and John:
Books about Jesus.
He is God’s own Son!
(Sing chorus.)

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