

Lesson #19

Hebrews 10:19-39, Luke 8:15

March 11, 2015

I think it's exciting to plant a seed! If you plant a seed in the ground, cover it with dirt and then give it water and the right amount of sunlight, before long the seed will sprout. *\*Our craft for today is planting seeds in good soil. Each child will take a container home.* It begins its growth under the surface of the soil, but then one day it pokes out of the dirt and a baby stem or leaf is revealed! After it is given time to grow, that little seed produces good things. Raise your hand and tell us some of the good things we can grow from a seed. (*Give the children time to name some fruits, vegetables and flowers.*)

Boys and girls, put on your thinking caps and listen to this verse in the Bible:

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart. They hear the message. They keep it in their hearts. They remain faithful and produce a good crop  
Luke 8:15.”

God's Word says that we are a bit like a seed. How we live our life shows whether or not we are planted in good soil. The Bible says that if we **have an honest and good heart**, *\*put your hand over your heart, listen to God's message, \*cup your hand around your ears, follow it and stay faithful to Him, \*stand up straight and tall like a faithful soldier*, then our life will produce good things, just like a seed can produce good fruit (or veggies).

So, if we have an “honest heart” that means we are truth tellers and truth seekers. We don't lie or exaggerate the truth. We don't look for ways to trick or fool others. We search out God's truth.

Having a “good heart” can mean a lot of things. It can mean that we are thoughtful and kind. We put others' needs before our own. We care for others and we are generous. It can mean that we share our toys or food or we hug someone who is sad and needs some cheering up.

If we “hear the message” it means we are listening to what God is telling us. The Bible tells us how to live. It tells us things like: love others, don't steal, don't worry and believe in Jesus. What else does the Bible tell us? *Give the children a few minutes to come up with examples from God's Word.* Those are good examples! Yes, we need to listen to those messages from God.

Is it enough to listen to God's Word? Nope. We need to keep it in our heart. That means we live by it and obey it.

Should we live by it and obey it for a little while or just sometimes or maybe just once a week? Nope. The Bible says that we need to stay faithful to God's truth. That means we need to take it seriously and stick with it—always. We need to cling to it; hold on tight to it and not let it go, every day.

When we do that and we let God grow us and help us, the Bible says we will “produce a good crop.” Does that mean lemons are going to grow out of our heads? Or will carrots grow out of our fingers? Of course not! It means that when we obey God and stick with Him, **He will produce good things in our lives.** He will use us to love others and point them to Him. He will help us to know Him better.

Remember, like a seed, it takes time for us to grow in the Lord.

Let’s pray. “Father, thank you that You are faithful to teach us about Yourself. Help us to grow in our love for You and to stick with You our whole lives.”

Bible verse: “But the seed on good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart. They hear the message. They keep it in their hearts. They remain faithful and produce a good crop. Luke 8:15 (NIRV)

Grow At Home #19  
March 11, 2015

Today the children learned these God facts:

- God's Word says that our life is like a seed.
- How we live our life shows whether or not we are planted in "good soil."

**Live It Out:** In class today we planted seeds! We talked about how our lives are a lot like a seed, needing good soil. *(Remember, dear parent, like a seed, children will not grow and mature overnight! It takes time as you help water and care for them. They also need your patience as they grow.)*

Gather some fresh veggies and fruits from your home and show them to your child. Slice an apple or peel a carrot, for example, and give it to your child to eat and enjoy. Point out that before this fruit or vegetable was an apple or a carrot it was a tiny seed. It grew to be something wonderful because it was in good soil; it was watered and received the right amount of sunshine and care.

Remind your child that you want to help her grow in the Lord. This is why you teach her God's Word, bring her to church, discipline her...Like a seed produces something good to eat, obeying God's Word and living by it will produce good things in her life! Give her a hug and tell her one or two things you see in her life that shows she is in "good soil." (I.e. She said "sorry" when she did something wrong. She told the truth, etc.)

**Prayer:** "Father, thank you that You are faithful to teach us about Yourself. Help us to grow in our love for You and to stick with You our whole lives."

**Bible Verse:** "But the seed on good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart. They hear the message. They keep it in their hearts. They remain faithful and produce a good crop." Luke 8:15 (NIRV)