



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

REVEALED

BIG IDEA

God can help me grow.

THE BIBLE

The Sower and the Seed: Matthew 13:1-23

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | A Second Look
- **ACTIVITY** | Parts of the Plant

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God can help me grow.
- **VIDEO** | Revealed, Episode 1
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 13:1-23
- **ACTIVITY** | Seed Relay
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Seeds Grow
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Little Gardeners
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Jeremiah 33:3

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Soiled Beans
- **ACTIVITY** | Watch It Grow!



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

REVEALED

BY KAREN ERNE

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | A Second Look

Instead of hiding objects for kids to find in the bottle, have toddlers familiarize themselves with what seeds look like! Before group time, seal a variety of seeds in a plastic bottle. When the kids are rolling and exploring the bottle of seeds, tell them about how plants grow from tiny seeds. (Make sure your bottle is sealed really well so kids don't accidentally ingest any seeds!)

ACTIVITY | Parts of the Plant

An alternative way to teach the younger bunch about plants. Get some long, large silk leaves or silk fern branches for the kids to play with (be sure to remove any wires or sharp edges). Talk to kids about how plants grow.

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 13:1-23



Give your toddlers something to do while they listen to the Bible story. Put some rinsed and separated lettuce leaves out on a classroom table for the kids to inspect, stack, and even taste.

ACTIVITY | Soiled Beans

An alternative activity, since sorting may be more challenging for toddlers! Put shredded brown paper and silk flowers into a bin. Ask the kids to find all of the flowers in the bin. Tell the kids that pretty flowers like these grow from plants. Say, "God makes the flowers grow and **God makes me grow!**"

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN ERNE

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Karen is a volunteer in the preschool area of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She has about nineteen years of experience as a Preschool Minister in local churches.

Karen's passion is connecting little ones to the truths of the Bible. Kids learn when they are playing, so Karen writes fun lessons that will help teachers show kids how much Jesus loves them.

Karen is a wife and a mom. She and her husband, Ed, have four kids aged ten through seventeen. Their family loves hiking, fishing, and fossil hunting together.

When Karen is not doing a Bible study with her church friends or helping out at her kids' school, she is often sewing. Karen makes stuffed animals, blankets, toys, and even clothes with her sewing machine.

If you'd like to chat about how your church can more strategically connect parents with ways to teach babies, ones, and twos about the Bible, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

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WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

REVEALED

BIG IDEA

God can help me grow.

THE BIBLE

The Sower and the Seed: Matthew 13:1-23

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | A Second Look

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around a plastic jar or [bottle](#) full of rice with small, hidden objects inside of it. Let each child search and find one of the objects, and when they find it, make sure they remember it. The next person has to find a different object.
- **So, was it easy to find the hidden objects in the rice or was it super hard?** It's okay if you don't find something right away or even if you don't find something new! Some of the items are really small and can be tricky to see and sometimes, different people turn the jar just right to reveal new objects.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Before group time, seal a variety of seeds in a plastic bottle. When the kids are rolling and exploring the bottle of seeds, tell them about how plants grow from tiny seeds.

ACTIVITY | Parts of the Plant

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce the kids to the different parts of a plant by showing them a diagram picture like [this one](#). Give each kid the printable available in your week 1 folder.
- Today, we are going to color our very own plants that we can always look at to remind us of the Bible story we are talking about today. Plants start from just a little seed, but over time, the seed grows into something beautiful, just like we do! Remember: God can help us all grow.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For the younger bunch, get some long, large silk leaves or silk fern branches for the kids to play with (be sure to remove any wires or sharp edges). Talk to kids about how plants grow.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to sing along (and dance!) to:
 - “[Farmer Plants the Seeds](#)” by The Kidboomers
 - “[Grow Up](#)” by Amber Sky Records

THE BIG IDEA | God can help me grow.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to curl up into a ball on the floor or sit on their knees. Pick two kids to walk around with an empty watering can and one to walk around with a cutout of the sun. Instruct the volunteers to “water” and “shine” the sun on their plants. As the kids get watered, have them slowly grow until they are standing.
- **When we are born, we are itty bitty people, but over time, we grow into big people! We can also grow our love for God. The Big Idea this week is: God can help me grow!**

VIDEO | Revealed, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this week’s preschool [teaching video](#)!

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 13:1-23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up Matthew 13:1-23 and read it to your preschoolers. You can use [this image](#) or another one like it to help kids visualize the story.
- **What happened to seeds that fell on the path?** They were eaten by the birds.
- **What happened to seeds that fell among rocks?** They died quickly because there were no roots.
- **What happened to the seeds that fell among thorns?** The plant got choked by the thorns.
- **What happened to the seeds that fell in the good soil?** They grew and grew!
- **God is our good soil. God will help me grow.**
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Give your toddlers something to do while they listen to the Bible story. Put some rinsed and separated lettuce leaves out on a classroom table for the kids to inspect, stack, and even taste.

ACTIVITY | Seed Relay

- In our Bible story today, we heard about how healthy plants grow from good soil and how plants in bad soil will not grow. Let’s see how many seeds we can get into the good soil bucket. Be sure not to drop any on the path!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split your preschoolers into two groups. Give each team a small bucket full of “seeds” (any kind of large bean will work). Put two buckets with “GOOD SOIL” written on it at the other end of the room. Each child needs to get a spoonful of “seeds” and take it as quickly as they can to their soil bucket on the other side. When they return back to their team, the next teammate goes. The teams will see who can fill their bucket with the most seeds in the time you select (thirty seconds, one minute, two minutes, etc.).

**PRAYER**

- Let's spend some time talking with God by praying.
- Dear God, thank You so much for helping us grow from itty bitty babies to big kids! You help us grow in our bodies, our minds, and in our hearts. Help us grow closer to You every day. Amen!

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Seeds Grow**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids flower-shaped cookies for a snack and point out the shape of the flower. If there are no allergies in your group, offer the kids sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds as well.
- **We have such beautiful flowers for our snack today. Flowers grow from little seeds (Show the kids some seeds).**
- **Flowers grow up big and tall just like you are growing bigger every day. When we listen to the Bible and do what God says, we grow. God will help me grow.**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to join you on the floor. Pass around the jar with hidden objects from before. This time, instead of looking alone, let the kids look in pairs.
- When more than one person looks at a time, we are able to find even more hidden objects.
- **What kinds of things help seeds grow into beautiful plants or flowers?** (Good soil, water, sunlight.)
- **What kinds of things help us grow closer to God?** (The Bible, learning at church, talking to God when we pray.)
- **What are some ways we can grow this week?** (Memorizing our new Bible verse!)
- **How can we help others grow?** (We can share Jesus with them!)
- God doesn't want us to grow all on our own. God wants to help us grow!

ACTIVITY | Little Gardeners

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each child a small plastic cup, one seed, and some soil. Help the kids plant the seed into the soil and tell them the instructions for the seed you chose.
- You can take home your seeds in their good soil and you can watch them grow over the next several weeks. Every time you look at your growing plants, remember God is helping you grow each day!

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to crouch down low and then say the verse as they stand up and reach their arms to the sky as if they are a plant growing up.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a coloring page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them the different ways God helps them grow.

ACTIVITY | Soiled Beans

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put assorted dry beans into a shallow pan (you can include the ones you used in "Seed Relay" earlier). Let the kids play and sort the beans by color and/or size. For an added challenge, have them use spoons or small, plastic shovels.
- Our Bible story was about planting seeds in the good soil. Let's separate out these different beans and make different "soils!"
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** An alternative activity for toddlers! Put shredded brown paper and silk flowers into a bin. Ask the kids to find all of the flowers in the bin. Tell the kids that pretty flowers like these grow from plants. Say, "God makes the flowers grow and God makes me grow!"

ACTIVITY | Watch It Grow!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a small tub of water. Give each kid a ["grow in water" toy](#) and let them have fun watching their small toy expand in the water! Be sure to supervise the kids carefully around water.
- **What did your toy need to grow?**
- **What do plants need to grow?**
- **What do we need to grow?**
- We need food and water, of course, but we also need God to help us grow!

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.