



Church Planting Bible Class Lesson for Kids

Object Lesson: Healthy Plant vs. Dying Plant

Bring a healthy plant to class with you as well as a plant that is dying and looks sick.

Did you know that we are a lot like plants? How are we like plants? We grow just like plants do. We started out really small, our parents fed us, clothed us, and took care of us. As they did, we grew just like this healthy plant. If we had not been taken care of, we would get sick and unhealthy like this other plant that appears to be dying.

As we extend this metaphor even more, we are going to plant a seed in some soil today. As we plant the seed, we are going to read and describe along the way what each part of planting a seed is like and how it relates to a church.

Supplies you will need:

- Any type of plant seed
- Soil
- Water
- A pot to hold the soil
- Accessibility to Sunlight

The Soil - People

First, as we pour the soil into the pot, let's talk about how the soil relates to people. In order to have a church, a body of Christ followers, you need people. As the planter of a seed, where are you going to put the soil? Where is there going to be plenty of sunlight and water for the plant? Where is there a spot in your yard or home that doesn't have a plant already? Your job is to prepare and cultivate the soil (*the people*) and get it ready to grow by receiving sunlight and water. This is the same with planting a church. As a planter of a church, you have to ask yourself some questions just like when planting a seed in the ground. Where are the people who need Jesus? What town or city is ready to receive the Gospel of Jesus? Where are there at least a few people who already love and follow Jesus who can help spread the Good News? The point of finding good "soil" is to plant in a place where the Good

News of Jesus can spread and multiply through the people. A place to teach others, disciple others, love them, and serve them in hopes that they will do this with others.

Matthew 20: 19&20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The Seed - The Gospel of Jesus

Now that we have the soil ready - the people ready - we need to intentionally plant the seed of the Gospel into the hearts of others. There is a Parable - a story from Jesus - found in the Gospel of Luke called the Parable of the Sower. *Stop and read this story from a Bible Story Book or straight from Luke 8.* In verse 11, it says, “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.” As you plant the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of others, there will be people who receive it and others who don’t. In this chapter of Luke 8, it talks about those different people:

- On the path - “the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.” - vs 12
- On rocky ground - “the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in time fall away.” - vs 13
- Among the thorns - “stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.” -vs 14
- On good soil - “stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” -vs 15

God puts the desire in the hearts of others. Our job is to “plant the seed” and bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

Sunlight and Water: God Provides

God provides the sunlight. Plants grow towards the light. They long for the warmth and strength that only sunlight can give. As children of God, we should also lean towards the light for guidance and strength. God can give us warmth and comfort in times of struggle, and lead us on the clear path in times of doubt.

God also provides the water. Isaiah 44:3 says, “For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.” God also says in His Word, “The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” - Isaiah 58:11

Plants are thirsty and need water. They can't grow without water. Once we have planted the seed in a proper place with rich soil, God will provide the sunlight and the water in order for the plant to grow!

Conclusion:

You can now take home your plant and watch it grow. You will need to put it in a spot where it can get plenty of sunlight and water. Over the next few weeks and months, watch it grow! Let it be a reminder of how our church can grow with soil (the people and where we plant), a seed (the Bible), and proper sunlight and water (God's provision).