



Section 1

Jesus, Love, and Joy

Lesson 1

Bearing *Much* Fruit



Memory Verse

“It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”

(Zechariah 4:6)

Note from the Author to the Teacher:

I live in a rural community where a life of farming and raising crops means there is a planting season, a growing season, and a harvesting season. As I write this, we are in the harvest season, where we gather the fruits and vegetables that have been growing all season long. In this lesson, we begin to define what it means for children to bear fruit. Just like apple trees produce apples, Christians produce spiritual fruit by staying connected to Jesus. Being more like Jesus means everything about us begins to reflect Him and His ways. Remember, children who receive Christ are given the same Holy Spirit adults are given, so they can bear fruit. My prayer is that as we walk this journey together, we will grow in holiness, which is simply being more like Jesus. That’s the kind of fruit we’re talking about.

Christie Kessinger

ROOTS: Fruit of the Spirit
Christie Kessinger, Author

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Lesson 1:

Bearing *Much* Fruit

**Key Idea:**

By focusing on our connection to Jesus, we can become spiritually fruitful. (Galatians 5:22-23)

**Biblical Basis:**

Galatians 2:20; John 15

**Suggested Songs:**

1. "What a Beautiful Name," Yancy Ministries
2. "Great Are You, Lord," WorshipHouseKids

Please refer to the *Teacher's Resource Guide* for more information about where to access these songs.

Resources used in this lesson:

Graphic 1.1.1	Apple Tree with Fruit	Graphic 1.1.17	Bearing <i>Much</i> Fruit (Printable PDF)
Graphic 1.1.2	Lesson Title: Bearing <i>Much</i> Fruit	Graphic 1.1.18	The Lord's Prayer
Graphic 1.1.3	Tree and Root System	Graphic 1.1.19	Si the Squirrel Character (Printable PDF)
Graphic 1.1.4	Memory Verse: Zechariah 4:6	Graphic 1.1.20	ROOTS Logo for Children's Prayer Notebooks (Printable PDF)
Graphic 1.1.5	Verse: Galatians 2:20, ESV	Graphic 1.1.21	Home Connection (Printable PDF)
Graphic 1.1.6	Verse: John 15:4, ESV	Graphic 1.1.22	Social Media Day One
Graphic 1.1.7	Jesus (Printable PDF)	Graphic 1.1.23	Social Media Day Two
Graphic 1.1.8	Root System (Printable PDF)	Graphic 1.1.24	Social Media Day Three and Five
Graphic 1.1.9	Apples (Printable PDF)	Graphic 1.1.25	Social Media Day Four
Graphic 1.1.10	Words: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"	Graphic 1.1.26	Social Media Day Six
Graphic 1.1.11	Bible-Era Food	Video 1	The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language
Graphic 1.1.12	Bible-Era Work	Video 2	On Location: In Galilee
Graphic 1.1.13	Bible-Era Sleep		
Graphic 1.1.14	Bible-Era Outdoor Teaching		
Graphic 1.1.15	Breath Prayer		
Graphic 1.1.16	Sheet Music: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"		

**Prayer Journal Preparation:**

Detailed instructions are provided in the *Teacher's Resource Guide* for preparing these journals before your students meet for the first lesson. This also applies to online lessons.

Teachers will also find many additional helps in the *Teacher's Resource Guide* that correspond to this lesson series. Please familiarize yourself with it before beginning to teach the lessons.

Suggested Weekly Schedules:

- If your children's classes meet only **once per week**, use *Lesson Plan A*.
- If your children's classes meet **twice each week**, use *Lesson Plan B* for the second meeting.
- If your children's classes meet **three times each week**, use *Lesson Plan C* for the third meeting.
- If your children's **weekly lessons are taught online**, *Lesson Plan D* includes material for two online sessions of 20 to 30 minutes each. It has been our experience that keeping children engaged with an online lesson for 40 to 60 minutes at one time is less beneficial for learning and retention than two separate sessions.

Lesson Plan A — 51 minutes

What to Do	Page	Minutes
Song — “What a Beautiful Name”	—	3
Hook	<u>3</u>	5
Song — “Great Are You, Lord”	—	3
Sermon	<u>5</u>	25
Lord's Prayer Lesson	<u>9</u>	15

Lesson Plan B — 43 minutes

What to Do	Page	Minutes
Song — “What a Beautiful Name” or “Great Are You, Lord”	—	3
Bible Verse Review	<u>11</u>	10
Review Discussion Questions	<u>11</u>	15
Activity/Craft	<u>12</u>	15

Lesson Plan C — 41 minutes

What to Do	Page	Minutes
Song — “What a Beautiful Name”	—	3
Review Sermon	<u>5</u>	5-10
Song — “Great Are You, Lord”	—	3
Object Lesson	<u>13</u>	5-10
Lord's Prayer Review	<u>9</u>	10
Bible Verse Review	<u>11</u>	10

Lesson Plan D Two Sessions, 20-30 minutes each

What to Do	Page	Minutes
Online Presentation 1	<u>14</u>	20-30
Online Presentation 2	<u>19</u>	20-30

Hook: 5 minutes



Puppet Skit (or Live Skit)

A skit will introduce each new section of this curriculum.

Characters :

1. Host
2. Si the Squirrel

Host: Hey, everyone! It is good to see you. (*looking at Si, who's whimpering and holding an apple*) Hi there, friend. What's wrong with you?

Si: Well, I was just walking along and, all of a sudden, *whack!* This big, red, round thing hit me on the head! It came out of nowhere. (*Si hands the apple to the host.*)

Host: I'm sorry about that, Si. But it really didn't come out of nowhere; it came from that tree.



Show Graphic 1.1.1 — Apple Tree with Fruit.

Host: See all the “round, red things”? They are what, kids? Does anyone know?

Give the children time to respond; you are looking for the answer *apples*.

Host: Right, apples. They grow on trees.

Si: Well, how about that...apples. They just appear?

Host: Kind of. When an apple tree grows big and tall and its roots have grown down deep underground, the tree will begin to *grow* fruit or *bear* fruit.

Si: Bear fruit, huh? That's great! I like fruit!

Host: Actually, bearing fruit is what we are talking about this year in (*your group's name*) — our lessons are all about bearing the fruit of the Spirit.



Show Graphic 1.1.2 — Lesson Title.

Materials



“Si the Squirrel” Puppet



Apple



Apple Tree with Fruit

Graphic 1.1.1



Lesson Title:
Bearing *Much* Fruit

Graphic 1.1.2



Tree and Root System

Graphic 1.1.3



Memory Verse:
Zechariah 4:6

Graphic 1.1.4



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Hook (continued)

Host: But we are obviously people, not trees growing fruit to eat, right? People can produce or bear spiritual fruit in our lives. That begins when we say yes to Jesus by admitting we are sinners — that we have done wrong — and by believing that Jesus died to pay for our sins and trusting Him as our only way to heaven. When we make that decision to be a follower of Jesus, our lives are “planted” in Him — just as fruit trees are planted in the ground. Then as we live our lives doing what helps us be more like Jesus, like reading the Bible, praying, going to church to learn more about God, and spending time with others who are also following Jesus, our *spiritual* roots grow deeper and wider in Jesus. We become stronger as Christians.



Show Graphic 1.1.3 — Tree and Root System.

Host: The stronger we become, the more spiritual fruit we *grow* or *bear*. The Bible describes exactly what that fruit is in Galatians 5:22-23 — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Si: That is awesome! So, as a Christian or a follower of Jesus, when I love others, and when I’m patient with my baby brother — even when he bothers me — and when I help others, that is showing the fruit of the Spirit?

Host: That’s right, Si! (*Addressing the children:*) But we can’t grow the fruit of the Spirit on our own. We need God’s Spirit to empower us to grow or bear the fruit of the Spirit. We will be learning much more about this fruit of the Spirit in later lessons, but for now, let’s say our memory verse together first. This verse teaches us that it is God’s Spirit that gives us the strength to have this kind of spiritual fruit in our lives as Christians. It’s very important to remember that we can’t grow this fruit in our lives in our own power — and that we ask God for His power to help us bear much fruit.



Show Graphic 1.1.4 and have Si read it aloud to the children.

Si: Let’s say our memory verse together, everyone: “*It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies*” (Zechariah 4:6).



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Sermon: 25 minutes



Prepare: Prepare all of your graphics for screen sharing or showing on a television before class begins.

Refer to the notes under Prayer Basis in the *Teacher's Resource Guide* for an explanation of how to use Graphic 1.1.20. Prepare your notebooks in advance and have the children retrieve both notebooks and pencils before class begins each week if called for in the lesson. They will not be needed in Lesson 1, but the logo is included so you can prepare the notebooks.

Let's pretend that one of you is a tree — and that tree is going to represent Jesus.



Choose a volunteer to help you and give your helper Graphic 1.1.7 (the word *Jesus*) with tape to attach to his/her shirt.

When you ask Jesus to forgive your sins and decide to live for Him every day, the Bible says that the Spirit of Jesus, also called the Holy Spirit, comes to live in you, giving you Jesus' thoughts and ideas.



Show Graphic 1.1.5 and read the verse aloud.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20, ESV)

That is amazing — the Spirit of Jesus Christ lives in us!

Christ — the name used in this verse — is another name for *Jesus*.

Consider illustrating by talking about first and middle names — while the names are different, both refer to the same person.

When you do what helps you know Jesus better, like reading your Bible, going to church, praying, and spending time with others who believe in Jesus too, you grow strong spiritual roots.



Tape Graphic 1.1.8 (roots) to the helper's feet.



Materials



ROOTS Logo for Notebooks

Graphic 1.1.20



Verse: Galatians 2:20, ESV

Graphic 1.1.5



Verse: John 15:4, ESV

Graphic 1.1.6



"Jesus" sign

Graphic 1.1.7



Roots System

Graphic 1.1.8



Blue painter's tape



Apples

Graphic 1.1.9



Words: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

Graphic 1.1.10



Food, Sleep, Work, Teach

Graphics 1.1.11-1.1.14



Breath Prayer

Graphic 1.1.15



Sheet Music: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

Graphic 1.1.16



On Location: In Galilee

Video 2

Graphic 1.1.5

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."
(Galatians 2:20, ESV)

Roots



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Sermon (continued)

Another word the Bible uses to describe this way of living is *abide*. Jesus says we are to *abide* or remain in Him.



Show Graphic 1.1.6 and read the verse aloud.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” (John 15:4, ESV)

Let’s think about that verse. If you had an apple tree in your yard, and you cut off one of the branches, would that branch still grow apples? No, of course not. It has to be connected to the tree in order to bear fruit.

When we *abide* with Jesus, we (the branches) stay connected to Him (the vine or tree) through the Bible and prayer and learning to depend on Him to help us each day.

Then we begin to bear fruit, meaning good things flow from our lives. We become people who show God’s love to others by how we live.



Using Graphic 1.1.9, tape apple cutouts to the helper one at a time as you describe the fruit of the Spirit. Consider labeling each apple cutout with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control from Galatians 5:22-23.

We become followers of God who are loving, joyful, kind, gentle and so much more!

The Bible tells many beautiful stories of people who were *abiding* in Jesus. Today, we’re going to talk about how the disciples followed the command to abide in Christ. First, we’re going to learn a song that we’ll sing each time we begin one of these stories.



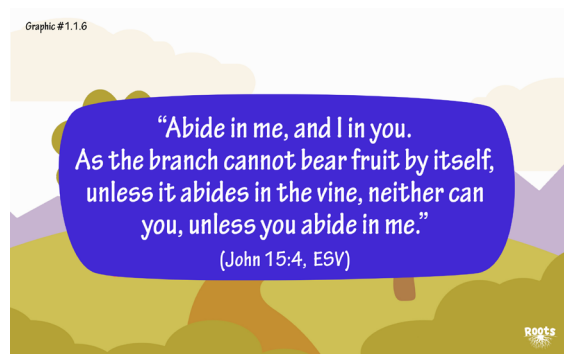
Show the words to “Tell Me the Story of Jesus” on Graphic 1.1.10 and have the children sing with you. (Graphic 1.1.16 is sheet music.)

Tell me the story of Jesus,

Write on my heart every word.

Tell me the story most precious,

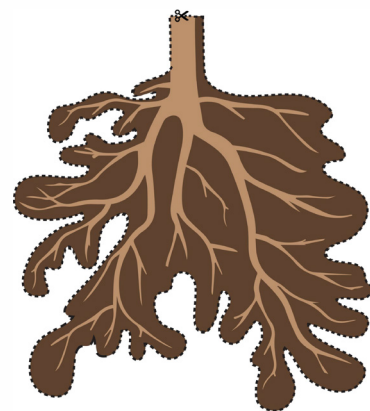
Sweetest that ever was heard.



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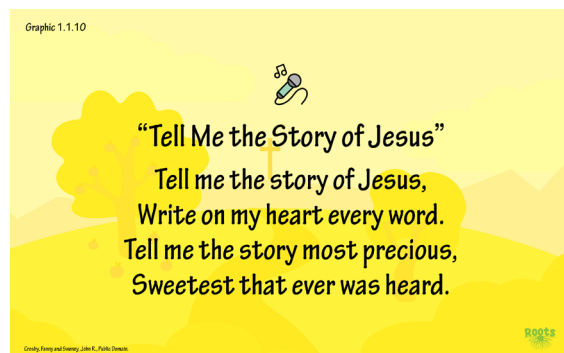
Graphic 1.1.8



Roots



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[Sheet music](#)

Sermon (continued)

In today's lesson, I'll share some examples of how the disciples relied on Jesus; but first, let's watch a short video called "On Location." From time to time in our lessons, we will watch videos that show us the actual places where Jesus walked, prayed, slept, and worked while He was on earth! It's incredible to think Jesus was actually here on the same planet where we live! So, let's go "On Location!"



Show Video 2 — On Location: In Galilee.

As the disciples followed Jesus during His ministry here on earth, they relied on Him for many things.



Show Graphic 1.1.11 — food.

First, the disciples depended on Jesus for their food. In one story we find in the Bible, Jesus turned just a few loaves of bread and a few fish into a large amount of food — enough to feed thousands of people, including the disciples.

For younger children, give an illustration using a crowd size they can understand — like the number of people in their school classroom or in their children's gathering — and tell them how many of those groups it would take to make even one thousand people. Then emphasize that Jesus performed a miracle that fed many more than just one thousand people from the small amount of food pictured in Graphic 1.1.11.

Second, the disciples depended on Jesus for their work.



Show Graphic 1.1.12 — work.

Jesus asked them to leave everything — their homes and their jobs — to follow Him, so they did. They traveled around the country with Jesus, and instead of being fishermen or tax collectors or doing other jobs to earn their living, their work became preaching and teaching about Jesus, and healing the sick in Jesus' name. This picture shows how Jesus and the disciples would have laid their hands on sick people as they prayed for them — that was part of the "work" they did here on earth.

Third, because the disciples traveled so much, they depended on Jesus for a place to sleep.



Show Graphic 1.1.13 — sleeping accommodations.

In Jesus' time, house roofs were often used as places to gather and talk, especially in the evening, and in good weather, people would often sleep there.



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Sermon (continued)

The roof of most houses today is different than what we see in this picture. They are often slanted and steep. If we tried to sleep there, we would roll off! But in Jesus' day, many roofs were flat like these in the picture. They were used almost like we would use a living room or den. Now, we might store things in a garage or shed, but in Jesus' time, people often used their roof for extra storage or a place for their guests to sleep.



Show Graphic 1.1.14 — outdoor teaching.

Fourth, the disciples depended on Jesus to teach them about God and how His kingdom works.

Jesus taught, and they listened. Sometimes they didn't understand everything, but they sure tried. We won't always understand everything we read in the Bible, but we should always try.

Why did the disciples try so hard to understand what Jesus was teaching them and others? Because they loved Jesus. They were committed to following Him and abiding with Him.

Over time, the disciples became more *like* Jesus in the way they lived and acted each day because of the time they spent with Him. When you spend time with Jesus reading His Word — the Bible — and praying to Him, you will become more like Him in the things you do and say too. As followers of Jesus, we want to be more like Him.

Remember, our goal is to learn how to *abide* in Jesus so that we can *bear much fruit* — like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. One of the ways we *abide* in Jesus so we can *bear much fruit* is to think about Him. One tool we can use to do that is a *Breath Prayer*, which means we will take a *breath* and then repeat a short prayer.



Show the Graphic 1.1.15 — Breath Prayer.

Breathing as we pray helps us focus our thoughts on God. Let's practice praying like this — let me show you.

Model for the kids. Inhale and say "Jesus," then exhale and say, "I love you." Repeat once more.

Now pray this prayer together with me, remembering to breathe in and out as you pray.

Allow about 30 seconds for the children to participate. They may be uncomfortable at first and even become restless, but be persistent in encouraging them to participate and stay focused. It is so important for all of us to learn to sit in the Lord's presence and be comfortable there.



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The Lord's Prayer: 10 minutes



Prayer Basis

ROOTS utilizes *Prayer Stations*. Beginning in lesson nine, you will begin to engage children in prayer using multiple themed prayer stations based on The Lord's Prayer. To engage children in a foundation for prayer, we teach each phrase of our Lord's Prayer and engage in an activity to develop that concept. Prayer Stations are explained in detail in the *Teacher's Resource Guide*. Familiarize yourself with them now to help you lead the kids effectively later in this section.

Lesson:

Today, we are going to look at a prayer in the Bible that Jesus prayed. The disciples had one request for Jesus after they watched Him abiding in God, His Father. Jesus taught the disciples a lot, but after seeing Him pray, they asked Him, “*Lord, teach us to pray.*” (Luke 11:1)

Using our Bibles, let's look at Luke 11:1-4.

First, assist the children as needed to help everyone locate the passage in their Bibles. If possible, have Bibles to loan to the children without one or ask those with Bibles to share.

For helpful tips on teaching children how to use their Bibles and how to explain the differences they will encounter in the different translations, see the *Teacher's Resource Guide*.

Read Luke 11:1-4 aloud from the Bible. It helps to keep the children's attention if the teacher reads and pauses before certain words or phrases and asks the children to verbally “fill in the blanks.”

This is a prayer that Christians all over the world pray — it is a very well-known prayer because Jesus spoke it. This year in ROOTS, we are going to have *Prayer Stations* that will help us pray through The Lord's Prayer in meaningful ways. Because we know that Jesus taught this particular prayer, we should pay close attention to it! Let's say it together.



Show Graphic 1.1.18 — The Lord's Prayer — and have the children read it aloud with you.

To help us learn The Lord's Prayer, we are going to learn it in sign language. We use sign language to communicate or talk to people who cannot hear. We'll watch a video that will help us learn to sign The Lord's Prayer together as we discuss what each week's portion of The Lord's Prayer means.

Materials



The Lord's Prayer

Graphic 1.1.18



Bibles for each student



Equipment to show video



Video 1: *The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language*



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The Lord's Prayer (continued)



Show Video 1 — The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language. Encourage the children to follow the motions. It will be helpful to explain to the children that sign language is a bit different than the words we write on a page. Some words that we would read from the Bible will be omitted or even combined into one motion in the sign language version of the prayer.

It will be helpful to you as the teacher to review this video before you begin using it with the children. In the video, one section teaches the signs and the other is a sign language rendition of the song in real time.

Signing The Lord's Prayer would be a meaningful way for your children to participate in the regular worship services of the church!

Additional Material



Bible Verse Review: 10 minutes

Let's read our memory verse together.



Show Graphic 1.1.4 and read it aloud with the children. Utilize the memory verse games found in the *Teacher's Resource Guide* to begin helping the children memorize the verse.

"It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."
(Zechariah 4:6)



Discussion Questions: 15 minutes

1. How do we grow strong roots in Jesus?

Possible answers: Read our Bible, go to church, pray, minister to others, etc.

Discussion Idea: Have the children come up with ideas for how they can remind themselves to read their Bibles and pray each day. Discuss having and using a prayer journal at home like the one they will have in class.

2. What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

Possible answers: To stay connected to Him; to follow Him; to depend on Him; to talk to Him.

Discussion Idea: Have the children describe situations where they feel it would have helped them to talk to Jesus...perhaps to ask for His help when they are tempted not to display the fruit of the Spirit.

3. What does it mean to "bear much fruit"?

Possible answers: When we grow strong roots in Jesus, we become more like Him. That means we are loving to others instead of not caring about them, peaceful instead of fighting, kind instead of mean, gentle instead of rude or hateful, to give just a few examples.

Discussion Idea: Have the children describe situations where they could act each way—or you can have older children act this out. Or you describe a situation and have the children tell how they will respond if they are bearing much fruit in their lives.

4. How did the disciples abide with Jesus?

Possible answers: The disciples ate, slept, traveled, worked, and learned together with Jesus.

5. When we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and trust Him as our way to heaven and decide to follow Him, who comes to live in us?

Possible answers: The Spirit of Jesus or the Holy Spirit

Additional Material (continued)

✨ Activity/Craft: 15 minutes

Activity: Handprint Tree

Materials: White cardstock (1 per child), brown construction paper (1 per child), safety scissors, glue sticks, cotton swabs and washable paints, black markers or white chalk for tracing

Alternative: Purchase craft leaves or collect real leaves for the children to glue on their “trees” instead of using paints if you prefer.

Have children trace one arm and hand (with fingers spread out) on brown construction paper and cut it out. Glue the arm/hand on white cardstock. Using cotton swabs and paint, paint leaves on the tree or glue on the leaves you provided. Hang the finished trees on a bulletin board or wall around the Bearing *Much* Fruit Graphic 1.17.



Object Lesson: 5 minutes



Materials



Two or three apples

Activity:

The Bible tells us to abide in Christ. We have already learned that means to stay connected to Him, follow Him, and depend on Him.

To help us visualize staying connected to Him, we are going to play a game. I need two volunteers who think they can work together.

Choose two students, stand them arm to arm and place an apple between their upper arms. This activity is more difficult than it seems, and kids are not likely to get very far.

These two will stand next to each other, arm to arm, and walk or run around the room, keeping this apple between their arms.

In order to succeed, they are going to need to stay connected to each other, just like we must stay connected to Jesus to succeed in the Christian life.

Ready, set, go!

Alternative: Have multiple teams of children race to see who can get around the room first or use a stopwatch to time each team to see who has the fastest time.

Teach the Point: Did you notice that keeping the apple between their arms required each team to put forth some effort to stay connected to each other? It was something they had to do on purpose — they didn't just stay connected by accident.

Abiding in Jesus works the same way...we must stay connected to Him on purpose through Bible reading and prayer.

Online Presentation: Session One (20 to 30 minutes)



Prepare: Prepare all of your graphics for screen sharing or showing on a television before class begins.

As the host, you should begin the Zoom meeting about two minutes before your scheduled start time. Greet the children as they join the meeting and spend some time visiting with them about their week as you wait for class to begin.

Please read the *Teacher's Resource Guide* that corresponds to this lesson series for additional helps and best practices for creating engaging online presentations.

Refer to the notes under Prayer Basis in the *Teacher's Resource Guide* for an explanation of how to use Graphic 1.1.20. Prepare your notebooks in advance and have the children retrieve both notebooks and pencils before class begins each week if called for in the lesson. They will not be needed in Lesson 1, but the logo is included so you can prepare the notebooks.

Welcome, kids! I am so glad you joined us today for Kid's Church (or the name of your gathering/group). Find John 15:4 in your Bible, mark the page, then lay your Bible aside for now. We will look at that verse in a few minutes.

Let's pray as we begin our time together.

Our memory verse for the next few weeks is Zechariah 4:6.

Say a prayer for today's lesson time together.

"It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."
(Zechariah 4:6)



Show Graphic 1.1.4 — Memory Verse: Zechariah 4:6.
Read it aloud.

Let's play a game today to help us begin memorizing this verse.

Play one of the games from the *Teacher's Resource Guide* that is suitable for online gatherings.

Zechariah 4:6 tells us that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, gives us our spiritual strength!

To illustrate this verse, let's pretend I am a tree that represents Jesus.

Materials



Real apple (1)



Blue painter's tape



**Memory Verse:
Zechariah 4:6**

Graphic 1.1.4



**Materials for the Bible
memory game you chose
for today**



Verse: Galatians 2:20, ESV

Graphic 1.1.5



Verse: John 15:4, ESV

Graphic 1.1.6



"Jesus" sign

Graphic 1.1.7



Roots System

Graphic 1.1.8



Apple cutouts (10)

Graphic 1.1.9



**Food, Sleep, Work,
Teaching**

Graphics 1.1.11-1.1.14



Breath Prayer

Graphic 1.1.15



**ROOTS Logo for
Notebooks**

Graphic 1.1.20



On Location: In Galilee



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Online Presentation: Session One (continued)

Graphic 1.1.7



Tape the “Jesus” sign to your chest — Graphic 1.1.7.

When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and decide to live for Him every day, the Bible says that the Spirit of Jesus, also called the *Holy Spirit*, comes to live in us, giving us Jesus’ thoughts and ideas. This next verse talks about Christ living in us after we accept Jesus as our Savior.



Show Graphic 1.1.5 and read the verse aloud.

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20, ESV)

It is so amazing that the Spirit of Christ Jesus lives in us!

When you and I do things that help us know Jesus better, like reading the Bible, going to church, praying, and being with other believers, we grow strong spiritual roots that are planted deeply in Jesus.



Tape “roots” below the “Jesus” sign, but where the children can still see it, depending on your camera angle — Graphic 1.1.8.

Another word the Bible uses to describe staying connected to Jesus is *abide*. Jesus says we are to *abide* or remain in Him.

Think about how the branches of a tree are connected to the main trunk. We are supposed to be like those branches and stay connected to Jesus — to *abide* in Him.

To help you know what that word *abide* means, think about the house or apartment where you live. Another word for *live* is *abide*. Just like we abide or live in a house, we need to abide or live in Jesus.

Let’s open our Bibles and look at John 15:4 that you looked up when class began today.

Offer more instruction to help students find the verse if needed.

For helpful tips on teaching children how to use their Bibles and how to explain the differences they will encounter in the different translations, see the *Teacher’s Resource Guide*.



Show Graphic 1.1.6 and read the verse aloud slowly, asking the children to read along with you.



Roots



[Download](#)

Graphic 1.1.5

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”
(Galatians 2:20, ESV)

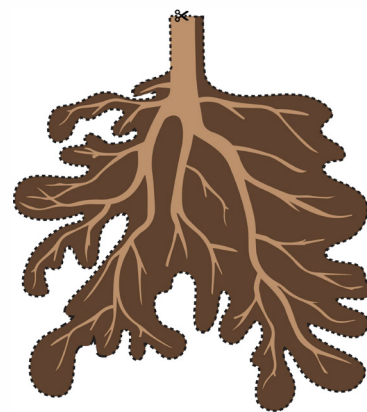
Roots



[Horizontal](#)

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Graphic 1.1.8



Roots



[Download](#)

Graphic #1.1.6

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”
(John 15:4, ESV)

Roots



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Online Presentation: Session One (continued)

Read it together with me. *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”* (John 15:4, ESV)

When we *abide* with Jesus, we stay connected to Him and learn to depend on Him.

When fruit grows on a tree, it doesn’t grow on the main trunk; it grows on the branches (that would be us). So the branches (us) abide or live in the vine or tree (which is Jesus), and that’s when we can bear fruit — the fruit of the Spirit.

Tape apples to your arms and chest one at a time, as you describe the fruit of the Spirit — use the apple cutouts from Graphic 1.1.9. Again, consider labeling your apples with the fruit described in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If you do, name each characteristic as you attach each apple.



The love of Jesus flows through us (the branches) and we bear fruit (like the apples) of love, joy, peace kindness, gentleness and so much more!

To give an example of the fruit of the Spirit, if someone treats us unkindly, but we are staying connected to Jesus and abiding in Him, we will respond with kindness instead of anger.

The Bible tells many stories of people who learned to *abide* in Jesus.

If you are unable to show Video 2 — On Location: In Galilee, skip to the asterisk (*) below.

In a moment, we’ll share some examples of how Jesus’ disciples relied on Him.

But, before we do that, we’re going to watch a short video called “On Location.” From time to time, we will watch videos that show us actual places in the Middle East, the country where Jesus lived — where He walked, prayed, slept, and worked when He was on earth! It’s interesting to think that Jesus was actually here on the same planet where we live! So, let’s go “On Location”!



Show Video 2 — On Location: In Galilee.

*Jesus’ disciples relied on Him for many things. First, the disciples depended on Jesus for their food. Remember the time when Jesus turned a small number of loaves and fishes into a huge amount of food — enough to feed thousands of people including the disciples?



Show Graphic 1.1.11 — food.

For younger children, give an illustration using a crowd size they can understand — like the number of people in their school classroom or in their children’s gathering — and tell them how many of those groups it would take to make even one thousand people. Then emphasize that Jesus performed a miracle that fed many more than just one thousand people from the small amount of food pictured in Graphic 1.1.11.



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Online Presentation: Session One (continued)

Second, the disciples depended on Jesus for their work. Jesus asked them to leave everything and follow Him, so they did. And they traveled around the countryside preaching, teaching, and healing the sick. This picture shows how Jesus and the disciples would have laid their hands on sick people as they prayed for them — that was the “work” they did here on earth.



Show Graphic 1.1.12 — work.

Third, because the disciples traveled so much, they depended on Jesus for a place to sleep. In Jesus’ time, house roofs were often used as places to gather and talk, especially in the evening. When the weather was nice, people would often sleep there.



Show Graphic 1.1.13 — sleeping accommodations.

The roof of most houses today is different than what we see in this picture. They are often slanted and steep. If we tried to sleep there, we would roll off! But in Jesus’ day, many roofs were flat like these in the picture. They were used almost like we would use a living room or den. Now, we might store things in a garage or shed, but in Jesus’ time, people often used their roof for extra storage or a place for their guests to sleep.

Fourth, the disciples depended on Jesus to teach them all about God and how His kingdom works. Jesus taught, and they listened. Sometimes they didn’t understand everything, but they sure tried.



Show Graphic 1.1.14 — outdoor teaching.

Why? Because they loved Jesus. They were committed to following Him and abiding with Him. The more time they spent with Jesus, the more *like* Him they became — the more fruit of the Spirit you could see in their lives.

Optional Illustration: Ask someone to help you and put the apple between your upper arm and the upper arm of your helper, so that the shared pressure keeps the apple from falling out.

SAY: We already learned that *abiding in Jesus* means to stay connected to Him, follow Him, and depend on Him. When we want to stay connected to someone, we have to do that on purpose.

Let’s pretend this apple is connecting (name of your helper) and me. If we want to stay connected, we will have to pay special attention everywhere we go if we want to keep this apple between us without dropping it. We will have to stay really close to each other to keep the apple from falling — to keep from losing our connection.



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[Horizontal](#)

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Online Presentation: Session One (continued)

I want you to try this at home with your sister, brother, or parents. Put an apple between your upper arms and try to walk around without dropping it. You'll see that you have to pay close attention to do that.

In the same way, we have to pay attention to stay connected to Jesus on purpose. We have to do the things that bring us close to Him — like read the Bible, pray and go to church to learn more about God and His Word.

One of the ways we *abide* in Jesus so we can *bear much fruit* is to think about Him.



Show Graphic 1.1.15 — Breath Prayer.

Breath prayer is one way we do that. We will say the first part of the prayer as we take a *breath in* and then say the rest of the prayer as we *breathe out*. Like this:

Model for the kids. Inhale and say “Jesus”, exhale and say, “I love you.” Then repeat.

Okay, let's pray.

Have the children pray for about 30 seconds. The children will likely be uncomfortable at first and might become restless, but encourage them to focus for the full 30 seconds. It is important for all of us to learn to sit in the Lord's presence and be comfortable there.'

Thank you for being with me today. I'm looking forward to seeing you again later this week when we will finish our lesson. Invite a friend to watch with you!



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Online Presentation: Session Two (20 to 30 minutes)



Prepare: Prepare all of your graphics for screen sharing or showing on a television before class begins.

As the host, you should begin the Zoom meeting about two minutes before your scheduled start time. Greet the children as they join the meeting and spend some time visiting with them about their week as you wait for class to begin..

Please read the notes under Prayer Basis in the *Teacher's Resource Guide* that corresponds to this lesson series for additional helps and best practices for creating engaging online presentations.

Hi, kids! Let's begin by saying our memory verse together.



Show Graphic 1.1.4 — Memory Verse: Zechariah 4:6.
Read it aloud.

"It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."
(Zechariah 4:6)

Say It! Repeat the memory verse multiple times, but say it in a different way each time (using a southern accent, like an opera singer, like a robot, like a preacher, in a whisper, like a cheerleader, etc.). Have the children repeat it after you, using the same type of accent or voice that you use.

Challenge: Ask for volunteers who believe they can recite the verse from memory to close their eyes or turn away from the screen and say the verse aloud.

Now let's play "Say It."

The last time we met, we talked about our new series for the year, ROOTS. Remember, I pretended to be a tree that represented Jesus? And you and I are like the branches connected to the tree, and we want to grow deep roots in Jesus as we grow as Christians.



Tape the "Jesus" sign to your chest — Graphic 1.1.7.

Materials



Memory Verse:
Zechariah 4:6

Graphic 1.1.4



"Jesus" sign

Graphic 1.1.7



Root System

Graphic 1.1.8



Blue painter's tape



The Lord's Prayer

Graphic 1.1.18



Video 1: *The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language*



[Horizontal](#)

[Vertical](#)

Graphic 1.1.7

Jesus



[Download](#)

Online Presentation: Session Two (continued)

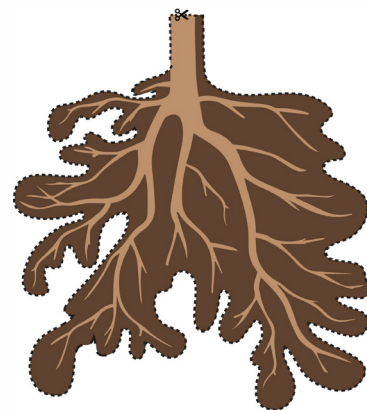
When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and decide to live for Him every day, the Bible says that the Spirit of Jesus, also called the *Holy Spirit*, comes to live in us, giving us Jesus' thoughts and ideas.

When you and I do things that help us know Jesus better, like reading the Bible, going to church, praying, and being with other believers, we grow strong spiritual roots.



Tape "roots" below the "Jesus" sign, but where the children can still see it, depending on your camera angle — Graphic 1.1.8.

Graphic 1.1.8



Roots



[Download](#)

Another word the Bible uses to describe staying connected to Jesus is *abide*. Jesus says we are to *abide* or remain in Him, just like branches must stay connected to a tree if they are to grow fruit.

When we live in a house or apartment — people say we *abide* there.

One way to abide with Jesus is to pray. Praying is simply talking to and listening to Jesus.

This year in ROOTS, we are going to use Prayer Stations that will help us pray using The Lord's Prayer that Jesus used to teach His disciples to pray. Jesus gave us these very words to teach us how to pray.

The disciples asked Jesus one thing after they watched Him abiding in His Father — God. Jesus taught them a lot, but after seeing Him pray, they asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

Using our Bibles, let's look at this passage.



Read Luke 11:1-4 from the Bible; often it helps keep the children's attention if the teacher reads and pauses before some words or phrases and asks the children to verbally fill in the blanks.

This is a prayer that Christians all over the world pray — it is a very well-known prayer because Jesus spoke it. This year in ROOTS, we will learn to pray using the very words that Jesus gave us in The Lord's Prayer.

Let's say this prayer together.



Show Graphic 1.1.18 — The Lord's Prayer — and read it aloud with the children.

To help us learn The Lord's Prayer even better, we are going to learn it in sign language. That means every week we'll watch a video that shows us how to sign The Lord's Prayer, and then we'll do it together as we discuss what each week's portion of The Lord's Prayer means.

Graphic 1.1.18

"The Lord's Prayer"

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen.

(Matthew 6:9-13, KJV)

Roots



[Horizontal](#)

[Vertical](#)

Online Presentation: Session Two (continued)



Show Video 1 — The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language. Encourage the children to follow the motions. It will be helpful to explain to the children that sign language is a bit different than the words we write on a page...some words that we would read from the Bible will be omitted or even combined into one motion in the sign language version of the prayer.

It will be helpful to you as the teacher to preview this video before you begin using it with the children.

Thank you so much for joining me this week to study our lesson about, "Bearing Much Fruit."

I'll see you next week when we'll learn more about, "Who Is Jesus?" See you then!



Consider ending the lesson with a worship song. You can include a video in your media or sing a cappella and have the kids sing with you.

Home Connection



Home Connection

Bearing *Much* Fruit



Key Idea:

By focusing on our connection to Jesus, we can become spiritually fruitful.
(Galatians 5:22-23)



Biblical Basis:

Galatians 2:20; John 15

Memory Verse:

"It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."
(Zechariah 4:6)

Lesson Summary:

Today we began a new year-long study called *ROOTS: Bearing Much Fruit*. In John 15:4, Jesus says when we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit. Trees or vines need deep roots to produce fruit. How do we grow deep spiritual roots? By abiding in Jesus — by staying connected to Him like a branch is connected to a tree, by following Him, by being like Him, and by depending on Him. Throughout the year, we will learn about Jesus' time on earth. We will examine the fruit He displayed and talk about how we too can produce the same fruit, through the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Questions to discuss at home:

1. What are some ways our family is growing strong in God?
2. Share your stories of growing in Jesus with each other.

Home Challenge:

1. Using a houseplant you bought or have, gently dig it up and look at its root system. Talk about the miracle of plants and their growth. Compare it to the miracle of spiritual growth.
2. Visit an orchard or vineyard in your area and look at the trees/vines bearing fruit. Encourage your child to be thankful for the Spirit's work in our lives to help us bear *much fruit*!

Parents, please pray The Lord's Prayer over your children. Put your child's name in the blanks.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name — may (child's name) honor Your holy name today. May Your kingdom come in (child's name)'s life, and may Your will be done on earth in (child's name)'s life, as it is done in heaven. Give (child's name) the daily bread of Your Word and Your truth today. Help (child's name) to seek Your forgiveness for sin, and to forgive those who have sinned against us. Keep (child's name) from temptation, and deliver (child's name) from evil. The kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours forever, Lord. Amen, so be it.

Social Media Plan for Lesson 1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Post Day

No Post Day



The following suggested posting schedule works best in a Facebook Group for your children's ministry.

On the day of each online presentation, you will post a link for the Zoom Meeting for your lesson time. Be sure to record your Zoom gatherings! You can post them to your Facebook group at a later time for any kids who are unable to attend the live gathering, and they are helpful review to you, the teacher.

For additional information, tips and best practices for using Zoom, setting up Zoom for Facebook Live, and posting previously recorded Zoom video sessions to Facebook and other platforms, see the *Teacher's Resource Guide*.

Day One — Promote: Two days before your lesson.**Suggested Post Text:**

ROOTS is ministry to kids! Join us on (give the platform — Zoom [preferred], Facebook, Google Meet, etc.) on (day and date) at (time) as we learn to live like Jesus. Just like apple trees produce apples, Christians produce *fruit* by staying connected to Jesus. Being more like Jesus means that everything about us begins to reflect Jesus and His ways. See you soon! Invite a friend to watch with you!

Parents, please pray The Lord's Prayer over your children each night. We will be using this prayer to teach the children to pray, and using it to pray for them will help them become familiar with using Bible prayers in a practical way.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name — may (child's name) honor Your holy name today. May Your kingdom come in (child's name)'s life, and may Your will be done on earth in (child's name)'s life, as it is done in heaven. Give (child's name) the daily bread of Your Word and Your truth today. Help (child's name) to seek Your forgiveness for sin, and to forgive those who have sinned against us. Keep (child's name) from temptation, and deliver (child's name) from evil. The kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours forever, Lord. Amen, so be it.



Insert Post Image Graphic 1.1.22

Day Two — Promote: The day before your lesson**Suggested Post Text:**

The Bible verse we'll be learning in this lesson is Zechariah 4:6 — *"It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."* Why not memorize it as a family and see how God will have you apply it in your daily lives? See you tomorrow at (time) for our lesson together online.

[Download Day One Post Graphic 1.1.22](#)[Download Day Two Post Graphic 1.1.23](#)

Social Media Plan for Lesson 1 (continued)

Parents, in preparation for our lessons, please pray The Lord's Prayer over your children each night.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name — may (child's name) honor Your holy name today. May Your kingdom come in (child's name)'s life, and may Your will be done on earth in (child's name)'s life, as it is done in heaven. Give (child's name) the daily bread of Your Word and Your truth today. Help (child's name) to seek Your forgiveness for sin, and to forgive those who have sinned against us. Keep (child's name) from temptation, and deliver (child's name) from evil. The kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours forever, Lord. Amen, so be it.



Insert Post Image Graphic 1.1.23

Day Three — Present: Online Presentation 1

Suggested Post Text:

Today is the day we get to be together online!

Here is the Zoom link for our meeting:

Remember to join us at (time).



Insert Post Image Graphic 1.1.24

Day Four — Reinforce: Home Connection

Suggested Post Text:

Parents, yesterday, we began a new year-long study called *ROOTS: Bearing Much Fruit*. Please use the information below to review the lesson with your child.

In John 15:4, Jesus says when we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit. Trees or vines need deep roots to produce fruit. How do we grow deep spiritual roots? By abiding in Jesus — by staying connected to Him, by following Him, by being like Him, and by depending on Him. Throughout the year, we will learn about Jesus' time on earth. We will discover the fruit He displayed and talk about how we can produce the same fruit through the power of the Holy Spirit in us. You can discuss these questions as a family, perhaps during dinner or at family devotion time:

- What are some ways your family is growing strong in God?
- Share your stories of growing in Jesus with each other.

Tomorrow, we will finish this week's lesson at (time) right here online. Please help your children be present right on time!



[Download Day Three and Five Post Graphic 1.1.24](#)



[Download Day Four Post Graphic 1.1.25](#)

Social Media Plan for Lesson 1 (continued)

As a reminder, parents, please pray The Lord's Prayer over your children each night.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name — may (child's name) honor Your holy name today. May Your kingdom come in (child's name)'s life, and may Your will be done on earth in (child's name)'s life, as it is done in heaven. Give (child's name) the daily bread of Your Word and Your truth today. Help (child's name) to seek Your forgiveness for sin, and to forgive those who have sinned against us. Keep (child's name) from temptation, and deliver (child's name) from evil. The kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours forever, Lord. Amen, so be it.



Insert Post Image Graphic 1.1.25

Day Five — Present: Online Presentation 2

Suggested Post Text:

Today we get to be together online to finish our lesson on bearing much fruit!

Here is the Zoom link for our meeting:

Remember to join us at (time).



Insert Post Image Graphic 1.1.24

Day Six — Reinforce: Home Connection

Suggested Post Text:

Parents, here are a few ways to further explore with your child the idea of growing spiritual roots and what it means to abide in Jesus, the Vine.

1. Gently dig up a yard plant or houseplant, then examine and discuss its root system. Talk about the miracle of plants and their growth. Compare it to the miracle of spiritual growth.
2. Visit an orchard or vineyard in your area and look at the trees/vines bearing fruit. Encourage your child to be thankful for the Spirit's work in our lives to help us *bear much fruit!*

As a reminder, parents, please pray The Lord's Prayer over your children each night.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name — may (child's name) honor Your holy name today. May Your kingdom come in (child's name)'s life, and may Your will be done on earth in (child's name)'s life, as it is done in heaven. Give (child's name) the daily bread of Your Word and Your truth today. Help (child's name) to seek Your forgiveness for sin, and to forgive those who have sinned



[Download Day Six Post Graphic 1.1.26](#)

Social Media Plan for Lesson 1 (continued)

against us. Keep (child's name) from temptation, and deliver (child's name) from evil. The kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours forever, Lord. Amen, so be it.



Insert Post Image Graphic 1.1.26

Day Seven — No Post

This would be a good time to prepare your posts for the upcoming week and schedule them in advance for the entire week.