

Monroe United Methodist Church
2012 Vacation Bible School Farmville: Grow in Christ
Contemporary English Version

Day 1

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Soil and Rain

Theme: God plants the seeds of his grace in us to grow. Do we resist like hard or rocky soil? Are we soft soil welcoming the seed and the rain? If grace grows in us, what do we harvest?

Psalms 65:10

Memory verse: God waters all the fields and levels the lumpy ground. He sends showers of rain to soften the soil and help the plant grow.

Shorter Memory Verse: God waters the fields and levels the lumpy ground.

Day 2

John 15: 1, 2

Jesus is the Vine; we are the branches

Theme: The vine is the root system that draws water and nutrients from the soil. His followers are the branches that produce the grapes.

John 15:5

Memory verse: Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit.

Shorter memory verse: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches.

Day 3

Colossians 2:7

Prayer is the Root of Growing in Christ

COMMUNION CELEBRATED

Theme: Just as plants don't leave the soil to try other things, Jesus wants us to have a regular conversation with him (prayer)

Colossians 2:7

Memory verse: Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation of your life. Be strong in your faith.

Shorter memory verse: Plant your roots in Christ.

Day 4

Galatians 5:22

Fruit of the Spirit, part 1: Love, Joy, Peace

As the Holy Spirit softens the rocky or hard soil, the seed planted grows to a bountiful harvest. Just as the fruit (singular) of the land in Green County is wheat or corn, for instance, the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us is a transformed attitude toward others. Jesus had the fullness of the Spirit in his ministry. There are nine "Fruit of the Spirit"; we will look at three for each of the following nights of VBS. Spiritual gifts are given to different people for tasks in the church. No one has all spiritual gifts. Spiritual fruit, on the other hand, is a part of each mature Christian's life. This fruitfulness comes from God; it's not something we could produce without God.

Theme: Jesus taught in the Upper Room that giving up your life (or something else valuable) to help someone else get close to God is the greatest gift. It is the deepest definition of love.

John 15:12

Memory verse: Jesus taught, I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you.

[bonus memory verses]

Psalm 98:4

Shorter memory verse: Jesus said to love each other.

Love: sacrificing something valuable so others grow closer to God. Action more than feeling
Joy: deep happiness because God's promises are good, feeling of being reunited after a long absence, feeling of being restored to health.

Romans 5:1

Peace: lack of tension between God and me /neighbor and me. Forgiveness + trust = peace

Day 5

Matthew 18:1-5

Fruit of the Spirit, part 2: Patience, Kindness, Goodness

Theme: The disciples asked Jesus who would be the greatest. He turned it upside down and had them consider a child. The disciples thought in terms of strength, but Jesus thought in terms of trust. To be childlike is Christian maturity; to be *childish* is just plain immature.

Galatians 5: 22

Memory verse: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness.

Colossians 1:11

Shorter memory verse: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace.

Patience: ability to endure and accept hardship

Kindness: friendliness and generosity

Goodness: emphasis on making good choices that please God; moral goodness

Day 6

Luke 15: 3-7

Fruit of the Spirit, part 3: Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

Theme: Jesus tells a parable of a shepherd who seeks out one lost sheep even though he has 99 sheep that are safe. He doesn't stop until he finds it and rejoices greatly when he does. God faithfully search out each of us (like lost sheep or hard soil). We should be faithful to God and to our friends.

Galatians 5:22 and 23

Memory verse: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:23

Shorter memory verse: With the Holy Spirit, I am faithful, gentle, and self-controlled.

Faithfulness: loyalty, firmly resolute, undeterred by distractions

Gentleness: mild, soft, tender

Self-control: aware of actions (like taking an inventory); giving power of sinful desires over to God.

Memory Verses at a Glance

Day 11	Psalms 65:10	God waters all the fields and levels the lumpy ground. He sends showers of rain to soften the soil and help the plant grow.
Day 2	John 15:5	Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit.
Day 3	Colossians 2:7	Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation of your life. Be strong in your faith
Day 4	John 15:12	Jesus taught, I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you.
Day 5	Galatians 5: 22	The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness.
Day 6	Galatians 5:22, 23	The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Bonus Memory Verses

Many older students thrive on the challenge of additional memory verses. Here are nine additional verses that help define the nine fruit of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (love)	For now there are faith, hope, and love . But of these three, the greatest is love .
Psalms 100: 1, 2 (joy)	Shout praises to the LORD, everyone on this earth. Be joyful and sing as you come in to worship the LORD!
Romans 5:1 (peace)	By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now, thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, we have peace with God.
2 Peter 3:9 (patience)	In fact, God is patient , because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost
Psalms 86:15 (kind)	But you, the Lord God, are kind and merciful. You don't easily get angry, and your love can always be trusted.
Matthew 12:33 (goodness)	A good tree produces only good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces.
2 Timothy 4:7 (faithfulness)	I have fought well. I have finished the race, and I have been faithful .
1 Peter 3:4 (gentleness)	Be beautiful in your heart by being gentle and quiet. This kind of beauty will last, and God considers it very special.
2 Timothy 1:7 (self-control)	God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control . All scripture passages from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

VBS LESSONS AS CHILDREN'S SERMONS

To heighten anticipation for VBS (as well as reinforce the lesson) here are ideas for using the same lessons for children's sermons

Seed and Good Soil	Psalm 65:10	Leader has a few packages of tomato seeds. Leader tells children he/she would like to eat tomatoes on a hamburger tonight, but didn't have a chance to plant the seeds yesterday. The adults will get the joke. Would putting the seeds directly on the burger taste the same? Do seeds grow on hamburger? No. Do they grow well on rocks or hard soil? No. Where do they grow well?
Vine & Branches	John 15:5	Using a recently pruned branch or flower stem, If you stay joined to Jesus, you'll produce much fruit
The Best Root is Prayer	Colossians 2:7	Plants roots in Christ Prayer is part of roots
Fruit of Spirit part 1		love, joy, peace
Fruit of Spirit part 2		patience, kindness,
Fruit of Spirit part 3		goodness, faithfulness
Fruit of Spirit part 4		gentleness, self-control

Children's Sermons leading up to VBS

Week 1	Seed and Good Soil	Psalm 65:10	Don't plant a tomato seed on a hamburger
Week 2	Vine & Branches	John 15:5	If you stay joined to Jesus, you'll produce much fruit
Week 3	The Best Root is Prayer	Colossians 2:7	Plants roots in Christ Prayer is part of roots
Week 4	Fruit of Spirit part 1		love, joy, peace
Week 5	Fruit of Spirit part 2		patience, kindness,
Week 6	Fruit of Spirit part 3		goodness, faithfulness
Week 7	Fruit of Spirit part 4		gentleness, self-control
Week 8	VBS starts tonight		How do you grow?