

\_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church  
Parent's Guide  
201\_ Vacation Bible School

Church phone number \_\_\_\_\_ website \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

Here is a list of the themes, memory verses, and other information about Bible School at \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church this week. You may want to use it to ask your children what they were taught. This year, each group will be working together to earn bumper stickers. Stickers will be given out each night based on such things as group attendance, Bible verse memorization and other fun activities. Call us if you have questions, suggestions, or if you want to help

**Day 1**

**Soil and Rain**

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

**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?

Psalm 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**

**Jesus is the Vine; we are the branches**

John 15: 1, 2

**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**

**Prayer is the Root of Growing in Christ**

**COMMUNION CELEBRATED**

Colossians 2:7

**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**

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

Galatians 5:22

As the Holy Spirit softens the rocky or hard soil, the seed planted grows to a bountiful harvest. Just at the fall harvest 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.

**Shorter memory verse:** Jesus said to love each other.

[bonus memory verses]

Love: sacrificing something valuable so others grow closer to God.

Action more than feeling

Psalm 98:4

J

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

Matthew 18:1-5

**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.

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

Colossians 1:11

Patience: ability to endure and accept hardship

Kindness: friendliness and generosity

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

## **Day 6**

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

Luke 15: 3-7

**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.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you for **entrusting your child's religious education** with us this week. We think of this as a precious opportunity to grow the Kingdom of God. Our offering this week goes to - \_\_\_\_\_. Please send change or dollar bills back with your child and help them 'Feed the Silo'.

We **serve dinner each night** at 5:30. Please let us know if your child has any dislikes or allergies. We will have PB&J ingredients available each night too. Parents are welcome to join us! Our menu:

Sunday --	Wednesday –
Monday –	Thursday –
Tuesday –	Friday - Pizza

**We celebrate communion on Tuesday night.** All children are welcome to participate, no matter your religious background. Some parents may not want to have their children participate in communion. This is fine. Please notify our director \_\_\_\_\_ or your child's teacher, and your child will quietly be given an alternative activity during communion.

## **Game Night**

On Friday night, the kids will be involved in a variety of water games, so they will get WET!!! Please send your child with a change of clothes and a towel.

## **Music**

On Thursday night we plan to distribute CDs of the music we sang all week long. Think of it as the gift that keeps giving and keeps kids singing.

## **Prayer**

We are grateful to all the members of the church who have faithfully prayed for VBS each day using the themes of the day. Our prayer team will be praying and walking at the beginning of each night's session.

## **Sunday School**

We have classes for children during the summer with a one-room school format. Our big kick off for the next school year is August \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, VBS Director