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for your agency's name or logo.

Faith Grows in the Home

Devotional Activity Supply List

The LEA Early Childhood Educators Network theme for this year is "Sharing your Faith with Families." In keeping with this theme, we are pleased to include directions and devotions for a send-home devotion project for your students.

Assemble the kits as described and send the supplies, directions, and the age-appropriate devotion home with your students. The activity is designed to be completed by each family at home. Young children are excited to do homework, and sending the supplies will make it more likely that families will find time to complete the activity.

Note that space for your organization's name or logo appears at the top of the instruction sheet page.

Each child will need:

1. A copy of the age appropriate devotion and directions for the activity.
2. One reclosable snack or sandwich size plastic bag containing a small handful of damp potting soil.
3. A second reclosable plastic bag containing two or three bean seeds.



Dear Parent

Directions for Faith Grows in the Home Activity

Dear Parent:

Your child is bringing home supplies for a special devotion activity to be done at home. Every day your child is in our building he or she hears the word of God. Yet, we know that you are your child's first and best teacher, especially when it comes to learning about Jesus. This devotional activity is our way of supporting you as you share your faith with your child.

1. Talk with your child and help him/her understand that seeds need soil, water, and sunshine to grow into plants.
2. Help your child push the seeds into the dirt, and add about 1/2 teaspoon of water to the dirt and seeds.
3. Reseal the plastic bag, and tape it to a window in your home. A window with a southern exposure is preferred, but any window that offers warmth and sunshine will work.
4. Read the devotion together with your family.
5. You have created a small biosphere inside the sealed bag. If you check the bag each day, you will notice "rain" forming as the sun heats the moisture and condenses it on the inside of the bag. When you check the bag, remind your child of how God helps his/her faith to grow.

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For ages 6–7

Faith Grow\$ in the Home

Devotion for children ages 6–7 years

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:5–7 NIV).

Seeds must be in a place where they will receive warmth and sunlight, because they will not grow unless they get these things. We Christians are a lot like a plant. When we were baptized, the seed of faith was planted into our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. We needed the washing of baptism to wash away our sins, just like seeds need water to help them break out of their hard skin.

As the seed grows it will continue to need water and sunlight. As God's chosen children we need the Son, Jesus to help us grow. Every time we hear God's Word at home, at church, and in school we get a little more of the Son coming into our lives and our faith grows.

If we decided to put the plant into a cabinet or not to put water in the bag, the plant would not grow. The plant would die if it didn't have sun and water. When God created us, He knew we would need Him to give us Jesus and the sin-washing water of Baptism. Because God is planted in our hearts, through His Spirit and His word from the Bible, we can grow up as God's children.

As the plants grow, they reach up to the sky and turn and face the sun. They grow toward the sun because God created them to do that. In the same way, God created us to look to Him and hear His word, so we can grow in our faith. As we watch our plant grow over the next week, we will watch it sprout leaves. Each day it will reach toward the sunlight that feeds it. Each day we can learn something new about God through His word, so that our faith is fed. God blesses our faith and makes it grow.

Our Bible verse tells us how important God's word is for our faith to grow. God tells us to remember His word in everything we do. The Holy Spirit will be with us to help us understand and remember God's word. We will grow in faith like the bean plant will grow in the sunlight.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to plant in us the seed of faith through our baptism. Help that faith to grow in us each day. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

For ages 4–5

Faith Grows in the Home

Devotion for children ages 4–5 years

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5–7 NIV).

See the dirt inside this plastic bag? First, we are going to plant your bean seeds in the dirt. Push them down into the dirt so they are covered. Now we can put a little water in with the seeds and the dirt. We will close the plastic bag so the water will not get out, and tape the bag to the window so the seeds will have the warmth of the sunlight.

The seeds need dirt, water, and sunlight to grow into bean plants. If we take one of these things away, the seed will not grow or the plant will die.

You are growing just like the seeds will grow. You are growing taller. You need good food to help you to grow bigger.

You are growing when you learn to do new things. You need sleep to rest your brain, so you can learn new things each day.

Did you know that you also grow when you hear God’s word? You hear God’s word when you listen to a Bible story or sing a Jesus song. You hear God’s word in church, at school, and here at home. When you hear God’s word, your faith in God grows and you learn more about how Jesus loves you.

You also needed God’s special water. When you were baptized God washed away your sins. Your sins are forgiven because Jesus died for you and rose again.

You need good food and sleep to grow tall like a bean plant. You also need God’s word, love, and forgiveness to grow tall like a child of God. God loves you, protects you, feeds you with His word, and helps you grow as a Christian, so you can tell other people how God loves us all.

Your plant needs dirt and water and sunlight every day. Our Bible verse reminds us that we need to hear God’s word and share God’s word with our families every day. The Holy Spirit will help our faith to grow like a bean seed.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for seeds that grow into plants. Thank You for food that helps us grow strong and tall. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for us to take away our sins. Thank You for Your word and Spirit to help our faith to grow. Amen.

For ages 2–3

Faith Grows in the Home

Devotion for children ages 2–3

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:5–7 NIV).

Press the seeds into the dirt and teach your child to say:

Seeds need dirt to grow.
I need food to grow.
I need God's love to grow.
Thank you, God, for food.

Add the water to the bag and teach your child to say:

Plants need water to grow.
I need water to grow.
I need God's forgiveness to grow.
Thank you, God, for water.

Tape the bag to the window and teach your child to say:

Plants need sunlight to grow.
I need God's word to grow.
God's word makes my faith to grow.
Thank you, God, for faith.

Each day as you check on the progress of your child's plant, repeat the words and the prayer.

Prayer: Dear God, Please help my seed to grow into a bean plant. Thank You for helping me to grow in Your love. Amen.