



**Take Root
& Grow**

Welcome to the Hope Seeds Children's Gardening Curriculum!

This curriculum consists of 24 lessons based on planning, planting, and harvesting a garden together. It is appropriate for grades 3-6.

Each lesson begins with a simple gardening question which can generate discussion among your group. The basic answers are on the back of each lesson card for the teacher's benefit, but these can be expanded on as the teacher feels necessary.

Before each new lesson is introduced, it is suggested that the previous questions be reviewed. Not every question needs to be reviewed each time, but by the end of the curriculum, hopefully each child will be able to answer any of the questions without too much prompting.

Also included in each lesson is a passage of scripture and a short discussion starter. Gardening holds so many lessons for us all as growing Christians. Tying in God's Word and His lessons with the practice of gardening can be very valuable and meaningful for young children. The children could be encouraged to memorize these passages of scripture, practicing them together in each lesson. By the end, they would have 24 verses memorized!

Most lessons also have an activity to do, based either on the gardening topic or the scripture discussion.

Several of the lessons have "Garden Work" to do as the process of planting and caring for your garden progresses.

A few things to consider:

- Not every lesson needs to be used. They are stand-alone lessons and do not necessarily build on each other except as the gardening process continues. If you need fewer than 24 lessons, it should be easy to pick out just the ones that you want to cover in your time frame.
- If space for garden plots is not available, container gardens also work great. Large tubs, old tires, or any other recycled container will work. Just be sure to provide adequate drainage holes in the bottom.
- Good "kid crops" include radish, green beans, mustard greens, and turnips because they are quickly growing crops. Tomatoes, however, take too much time and labor. Try to include at least one root crop (like carrots) and one vining crop (like cucumber or squash).
- Allow the kids to do the work themselves, but work with them. Some benefits, besides the vegetables produced, include experiencing the joy of work, partnering with God in creation, satisfaction with a job accomplished even though hard, and sharing their rewards with others.
- If you are doing this as a school project, keep in mind that if you have a good crop, some of the produce could be sold to raise funds for school needs.

Happy Gardening!

Lesson	God's Word	Activity	Garden Work	Materials Needed
1. What is a garden?	Galatians 5:22	Fruit of the Spirit	n/a	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 1
2. Who was the first gardener?	Genesis 1:1	Prayer	n/a	n/a
3. Why did God make a garden?	Genesis 2:15	Action song	n/a	n/a
4. Why should we make a garden?	Genesis 1:29	Coloring page	n/a	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 4
5. What does a garden need?	Psalms 1:1-3	Drawing what a garden needs	Pick a spot for your garden	Blank paper Crayons or colored pencils
6. What tools will we use in our garden?	2 Timothy 3:17	Drawing tools	Practice using garden tools	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 5 Garden tools
7. How do we get the soil ready?	James 1:21	Prayer	Cleaning up the garden plot.	n/a
8. How can we make the soil better?	Luke 12:6-9	Coloring page	Mix and spread compost and manure.	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 8 Compost and manure
9. Where do plants come from?	Genesis 1:11	Looking at seeds	n/a	Local fruits/vegetables Hope Seeds packets
10. How do we pick the right seeds?	2 Corinthians 9:10	Coloring page	n/a	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 10
11. What shall we grow?	n/a	Discussion of vegetables Coloring page	Picking seeds to grow	Vegetable flashcards Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 11
12. What is germination?	Mark 4:26-28	Role play	n/a	n/a
13. How do we plant our seeds?	John 12:24	n/a	Starting seeds in egg carton or banana leaf pot	Egg carton, soil, seeds, scissors, pencil -or- banana leaf, tall grass, cup, soil and seeds

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14. How do we take care of our newly planted seeds?	Colossians 2:6-7	Drawing - Fruit of the Spirit plants	n/a	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 14
15. What is transplanting?	Deuteronomy 6:5	Coloring page	Transplanting if needed	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 15
16. Why is water important for our plants?	Isaiah 58:11	Drawing ways plants can be watered	Make a watering schedule	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 16
17. How can we protect our garden from animals?	I Thessalonians 5:8b	Drawing a garden with a fence	Build a fence if needed	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 17 Fencing if needed
18. Why do we need to weed our garden?	Colossians 3:8-10	n/a	Identify and pull out weeds.	n/a
19. What is mulch and why is it important?	Ephesians 2:8-10	n/a	Collect mulch material and spread in garden	Leaves, grass clippings, straw
20. Why do we prune or thin our plants?	John 15:1-2	Coloring page	Thin and/or prune as needed	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 20
21. What is a trellis and why do some plants need one?	Galatians 6:2	Make a real trellis as needed. Make a mini-trellis	Install a trellis if needed	Sticks, grass Popsicle sticks Marker
22. When can we harvest our vegetables?	Galatians 6:9	Coloring page	n/a	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 22
23. What do we get from our vegetables?	Colossians 1:9-10	Discuss nutritional information, share recipes	n/a	Activity Card Ls. 23 or other nutritional information
24. How can we have seeds for next year?	I Corinthians 3:6	Drawing ourselves as part of Gods garden	Discuss seed saving	Crayons or colored pencils Activity Card Ls. 24