

NVC_SG G23 | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule

Small group : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Activity One

Activity Two

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



Bible Story

The Vine and the Branches • John 15:1-11

Bottom Line

I can grow when I stay close to God.

Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. • John 10:27 NIV

5 min

Activity One

5 min

23 - Stay Connected | Made to Connect

What You Need

 Ball of yarn

Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Have kids sit in a circle.
- Say: "We're going to build something together again, but this time, we're not building with leaves. We're going to build a connection."
- Hold up the ball of yarn. Say: "This yarn is going to help us see what it looks like to stay connected."
- Explain how it works:
- Leader holds the end of the yarn.
- Leader says one way to stay connected to God.
- Leader tosses the ball to a kid while holding the end.
- Each kid shares and tosses to someone new, while holding on to the piece of yarn.
- Say: "When you catch the yarn, you'll say one way you can stay connected to God. Then hold onto your piece and toss the ball to someone else."
- Demonstrate:
- Hold the end.
- Say: "I can stay connected to God by praying."
- Toss to the yarn to a kid.
- Continue guiding the activity as kids participate.
- Prompt if needed:
- "Reading the Bible."
- "Talking to God."
- "Listening during quiet time."
- "Doing what God says."
- As the web forms, pause and point it out.
- Say: "Look at this! We're all connected."
- After all kids have had a turn, gently lower the yarn web to the floor or keep holding if manageable.

What You Say:

"Take a look at the yarn in your hands. It connects all of us, and it helps us see something important."

Jesus said, 'I am the vine, and you are the branches.' A branch stays alive and grows when it stays connected to the vine. That's where it gets everything it needs. When Jesus said this, He was teaching that He is our source. He is the One who gives us what we need to grow and begin to show things like love, joy, and patience. But there are a lot of other voices around us every day. Voices that try to tell us what matters most, what we should do, or how we should live. Sometimes those voices can be loud and distracting. Jesus invites us to stay connected to Him instead. When we stay close to Jesus – when we listen to His words, talk to Him, and remember what is true – we start to recognize His voice more clearly. We begin to want the things He wants. And over time, our lives begin to show it. We don't have to try to grow all on our own. Growth happens when we stay connected to Him. So, when you think about this yarn, let

it remind you: staying close to Jesus is what helps you grow strong on the inside. **[Bottom Line]** I can grow when I stay close to God.

5 min

Activity Two

5 min

23 - Build-a-Branch | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Build-a-Branch" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Scissors	1
	Coloring supplies	Several
	Clear tape	Several
	Wall	1
	table, or floor space	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Build-a-Branch" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up John 10:27.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid one of the strips with a word of the Memory Verse on it. Kids may pair up or take more than one word depending on number of kids in the group.
- Say: "Each of you has one part of our Memory Verse. First, take a minute to color in your word. You can add color, leaves, or anything that helps it stand out."
- Allow a few minutes for decorating.
- After decorating, say: "Now we're going to put all our words together to build our Memory Verse. We're going to put it in order first, then shape it like a branch. Let's find the very first word. Does anyone think they know what comes first?"
- Continue guiding:
 - "What comes next?"
 - "Who has the next word?"
- Help kids arrange the verse in order, left to right.
- Once the words are in order, say: "Now let's shape it into a vine and branches!"
- Gently guide kids to angle or curve the line slightly to resemble a vine.
- Tape pieces down as they are finalized.
- When complete, point to the full verse. Say: "Let's read it together."
- Read the verse out loud as a group one to two times.

What You Say:

"Jesus said, 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.' Jesus also said something else. He said He is the vine, and we are the branches. You see, branches don't just try harder to grow – they need the vine to give them life. Without the vine, a branch might look okay for a little while... but it won't keep growing. It dries out. In the same way, we can try to live life on our own. We can listen to other voices or just do whatever we feel like. But those things don't give us what we really need. Jesus is the One who gives life to our hearts. When we listen to His voice and follow Him, it's like staying connected to the vine. Jesus didn't say this to make things harder for us! He said it so we could have true joy that lasts. So when you choose to listen to Jesus this week, remember – you're not just making a good choice. You're staying close to the One who gives you life. And we can remind ourselves: **[Bottom Line] I can grow when I stay close to God.**"

Prayer

Prayer:

"God, thank You for wanting to be close to us. Thank You for your never-ending love. We want to be close to You, too. Please help us to remove distractions that take our focus away from being connected with You. Thank You for hearing us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Greeting & Prayer

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

Supplies

23 - Stay Connected | Made to Connect

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Ball of yarn | Several |

23 - Build-a-Branch | Made to Create

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Bibles | 1 |
| 2. "Build-a-Branch" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. Cardstock | Several |
| 4. Scissors | 1 |
| 5. Coloring supplies | Several |
| 6. Clear tape | Several |
| 7. Wall | 1 |
| 8. table, or floor space | 1 |