

Roots

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Teacher's Resource Guide



ROOTS: Fruit of the Spirit

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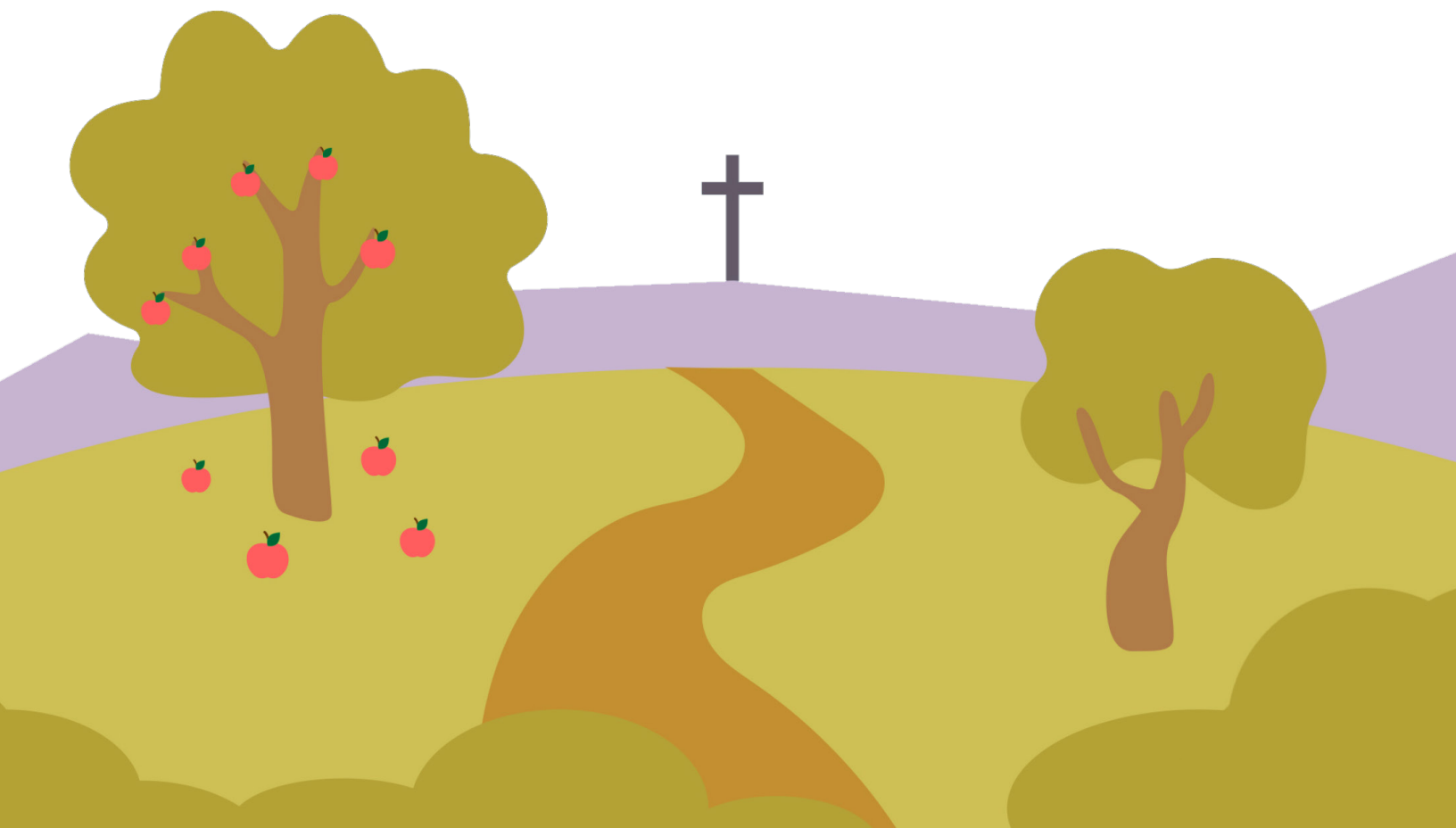
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Scope and Sequence of Sections and Lessons

Section 1: Jesus, Love and Joy

Lesson 1: Bearing Much Fruit

- **Key Idea:** By focusing on our connection to Jesus, we can become spiritually fruitful. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **Memory Verse:** Zechariah 4:6
- **Biblical Basis:** Galatians 2:20; John 15
- **Prayer Basis:** The Lord's Prayer is introduced and recited.

Lesson 2: Who is Jesus?

- **Key Idea:** Jesus is God's Son. He became a human being to show us how to live and be connected to God.
- **Memory Verse:** Zechariah 4:6
- **Biblical Basis:** Luke 3:4; John 1:6-7
- **Prayer Basis:** The first phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced: "Our Father which art in heaven."

Lesson 3: Where is Jesus Now?

- **Key Idea:** Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, and His Spirit lives in every believer.
- **Memory Verse:** Zechariah 4:6
- **Biblical Basis:** Mark 16:19; John 16; Ephesians 3:17
- **Prayer Basis:** The second phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced: "Hallowed be Thy name."

Lesson 4: God Is Love

- **Key Idea:** Jesus, who is God, is love. He showed us love by giving up everything to come to earth.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:7-8
- **Biblical Basis:** 1 John 4:8; Philippians 2:6-8
- **Prayer Basis:** The third phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven."

Lesson 5: Love Yourself

- **Key Idea:** Because Jesus loves us, we can love ourselves.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:7-8
- **Biblical Basis:** Matthew 22:37-39; Luke 7:36-50
- **Prayer Basis:** The fourth phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced. "Give us this day our daily bread."

Lesson 6: Love Others

- **Key Idea:** Everyone is worth loving.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:7-8
- **Biblical Basis:** Matthew 5:3-10
- **Prayer Basis:** The fifth phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced: "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

Lesson 7: Joy

- **Key Idea:** Jesus is full of joy!
- **Memory Verse:** Romans 15:13
- **Biblical Basis:** Romans 15:13; Luke 1:39-44; Luke 2:6-11; Luke 22:39-46
- **Prayer Basis:** The sixth phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced: "And lead us not in-to temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Lesson 8: Joy in Us

- **Key Idea:** True joy comes from Jesus.
- **Memory Verse:** Romans 15:13
- **Biblical Basis:** Nehemiah 8
- **Prayer Basis:** The seventh phrase of The Lord's Prayer is introduced: "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever."

Lesson 9: Joy for Others

- **Key Idea:** Jesus can give us joy for others.
- **Memory Verse:** Romans 15:13
- **Biblical Basis:** Luke 15:11-32
- **Prayer Basis:** Interactive Prayer Stations for The Lord's Prayer

Lesson 10: Review of Section 1 – Jesus, Love and Joy

- **Memory Verse:** Galatians 5:22-23
- **Prayer Basis:** Interactive Prayer Stations for The Lord's Prayer

Section 2: Peace, Patience and Presence

Lesson 1: Peace

- **Key Idea:** Jesus brings peace; Jesus is peace.
- **Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:4-7
- **Biblical Basis:** Isaiah 9:6, NIV; John 20:19-27, NIV; Numbers 6:24-26, NIV
- **Prayer Basis:** The Lord's Prayer is introduced and recited.

Lesson 2: My Peace

- **Key Idea:** By keeping our eyes on Jesus, we can have peace during life's hard times.
- **Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:4-7
- **Biblical Basis:** Mark 4:35-41; Philippians 4:4-7, NIV; Matthew 14:22-32
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 3: Peace for Others

- **Key Idea:** Like Jesus, we can be peacemakers.
- **Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:4-7
- **Biblical Basis:** Matthew 5:9, NIV; John 18:1-11; Matthew 27:27-31
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 4: Patience

- **Key Idea:** Jesus showed great patience with His disciples.
- **Memory Verse:** Colossians 1:11
- **Biblical Basis:** Mark 4:39-41; John 20:24-29; John 21:15-19; John 12:1-11; Mark 8:14-21
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 5: Patience Like Joseph

- **Key Idea:** God gave Joseph the power to have endurance and patience through many hard situations.
- **Memory Verse:** Colossians 1:11
- **Biblical Basis:** Genesis 37-45
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 6: Patience for All the World

- **Key Idea:** Jesus wants us all to follow Him, and He patiently waits for each of us to make the choice to follow Him.
- **Memory Verse:** Colossians 1:11
- **Biblical Basis:** Luke 19:8-10; John 3:16; Romans 3:23; 2 Peter 3:9
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 7: Christ in Us

- **Key Idea:** When we decide to become a follower of Jesus, His Spirit comes to live in us. That is Christ in us.
- **Memory Verse:** John 14:6
- **Biblical Basis:** John 14:6
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 8: Hearing God

- **Key Idea:** When we have the Spirit of Jesus living in us, we can hear His voice.
- **Memory Verse:** John 14:6
- **Biblical Basis:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 3:18a; Matthew 4:18-22
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 9: Who Am I in Christ?

- **Key Idea:** Any time something gets in the way of the work Jesus wants to do on earth, in us or to others, that is the work of Satan.
- **Memory Verse:** John 14:6
- **Biblical Basis:** Genesis 1; Genesis 3; Revelation 12
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 10: Review of Section 2 – Peace, Patience and Presence

- **Memory Verse:** Galatians 5:22-23
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Section 3: Good-for-You Fruit

Lesson 1: Kindness

- **Key Idea:** Jesus was the kindest man who ever lived.
- **Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:31-32
- **Biblical Basis:** Matthew 8:1-3; Luke 18:15-17; Luke 23:39-43; Luke 15:1-2; Hebrews 12:2
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 2: Kindness Like Jesus

- **Key Idea:** When we follow after Jesus, we can show kindness to others.
- **Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:31-32
- **Biblical Basis:** John 6:1-13
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 3: Faithfulness

- **Key Idea:** Mary and Martha were faithful believing Jesus could heal their brother, Lazarus. Peter was faithful believing Jesus had the power to heal the crippled beggar.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 John 2:24
- **Biblical Basis:** John 11:1-45, NIV; Acts 3:1-10
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 4: Before and After

- **Key Idea:** Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to begin the church and remain faithful, even unto death, He will also empower us to be faithful.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 John 2:24
- **Biblical Basis:** Acts 2; Matthew 26:47-56
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 5: Gentleness

- **Key Idea:** Jesus showed gentleness by doing the right thing with a soft touch even though He was strong.
- **Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:2
- **Biblical Basis:** John 8:1-11
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 6: Being Gentle Like Jesus

- **Key Idea:** We can show gentleness like Jesus, even when "stones" are being thrown at us.
- **Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:2
- **Biblical Basis:** Acts 7:54-59; Matthew 5:38-48

- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 7: Self-Control

- **Key Idea:** Jesus showed self-control, which is having the inner strength from God to control our bodies and minds.
- **Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:14
- **Biblical Basis:** Matthew 26:53
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 8: Jesus-Control

- **Key Idea:** Self-control for the believer is actually letting Jesus control our lives — both body and mind — for His purposes.
- **Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:14
- **Biblical Basis:** Acts; 2 Corinthians 11:16-30; Philip-pians 3:7-11
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 9: Goodness

- **Key Idea:** Goodness is not just what we do on the outside, but how much we have God's characteris-tic of being good inside of us.
- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 34:8
- **Biblical Basis:** Acts 10:38; John 2:1-12
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 10: Taste and See

- **Key Idea:** With Jesus' help, we can have inner goodness, too.
- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 34:8
- **Biblical Basis:** Luke 10
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 11: Review of Section 3 – Good-For-You Fruit

- **Memory Verse:** Galatians 5:22-23
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Lesson 12: Review of ROOTS: Fruit of the Spirit

- **Memory Verse:** Galatians 5:22-23
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations

Section 4: Special Lessons

Christmas Lesson 1: Waiting

- **Key Idea:** Advent is a time of remembering how the world waited for a Savior and now waits for His return.
- **Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:2, 6
- **Biblical Basis:** Isaiah 9:2, 6
- **Prayer:** Advent Prayer Stations

Christmas Lesson 2: Longing

- **Key Idea:** The world longed for a Savior and still does today.
- **Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:2, 6
- **Biblical Basis:** Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1, 2, 9, 10
- **Prayer:** Advent Prayer Stations

Easter Lesson 1: The Torn Curtain

- **Key Idea:** The curtain in front of the holy of holies in the temple symbolized that man was not allowed to approach God directly. When Jesus died on the cross, that curtain was torn from top to bottom, symbolizing that we can now have direct access to God.
- **Memory Verse:** Hebrews 10:19, 20, 22a
- **Biblical Basis:** Matthew 27:45-51
- **Prayer:** Holy Week Prayer Stations

Easter Lesson 2: The Empty Tomb

- **Key Idea:** The curtain has been torn. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. Jesus is here.
- **Memory Verse:** Hebrews 10:19, 20, 22a
- **Biblical Basis:** John 20:1-18
- **Prayer:** Holy Week Prayer Stations

Lesson 5: Faith Sowers – Benjamin Titus Roberts

- **Key Idea:** Because of his commitment to Jesus and the Scriptures, B.T. Roberts believed the Gospel was for the poor, the church should be open and free for all people, and that holiness along with the freedom of the Holy Spirit was to be embraced. These values led to the movement known as the Free Methodist Church.
- **Memory Verse:** Hebrews 12:1
- **Biblical Basis:** Galatians 3:26-29
- **Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer Interactive Prayer Stations



Using ROOTS Online or On Location:

Two formats

Each lesson in ROOTS is presented in two formats: for use with in-person teaching, or for online presentations. The first pages in each lesson focus on in-person ministry with children, and the second set of pages focus on online ministry. While the lessons are the same, the language has been edited to take into account needed modifications for each context.

An abundance of content

Each lesson includes an abundance of content with enough ideas and activity for up to three children's ministry gatherings! If you only meet once per week, choose from the suggested schedules included with each lesson. You might also consider spreading each lesson out over two or more gatherings.

At the beginning of each lesson an outline of suggested schedules assists with planning. Lesson plans A, B, C, and D are presented as follows:

- If your children's classes meet only **once per week**, use *Lesson Plan A*.
- If your children's classes meet **twice each week**, use *Lesson Plan B for the second meeting*.
- If your children's classes meet **three times each week**, use *Lesson Plan C for the third meeting*.
- If your children's **weekly lessons are taught online**, *Lesson Plan D includes material for two online sessions of 20 to 30 minutes each*. It has been our experience that keeping children engaged with an online lesson for 40 to 60 minutes at one time is less beneficial for learning and retention than two separate sessions.

The following content is presented in almost every lesson of ROOTS: Fruit of the Spirit:

- **The Hook:** an interactive and fun experience that engages kids with the topic.
- **The Sermon:** a lesson from God's Word that explains the truth in the biblical story.
- **The Memory Verse:** a repeated passage of Scripture that engages kids with their Bibles.
- **Prayer Basis:** observing and studying prayer bases to lead children to deeper experience when praying.
- **Prayer Stations:** focused, interactive gateways for the kids to experience prayer.
- **Object Lessons:** engaging and fun activities that reflect biblical truths using everyday objects and experiments.
- **Discussion Questions:** exercises to help kids verbalize what they've learned.
- **Optional Singing Time:** build worship into your gatherings through kids' worship music.

Focus on spiritual formation, not lesson progression

The focus of ROOTS is the spiritual formation of children, so there's no need to rush from lesson to lesson. Allow the spiritual seeds planted in the children to become embedded in their hearts and lives. ROOTS is formation-based, not *information*-based. Feel free to spend two or more sessions with a lesson if the Lord is moving in the hearts of children or they seem drawn to a particular lesson.



Online Best Practices

Suggested Platform(s) for Teaching ROOTS Online

To maximize interaction with children, Zoom is suggested as the primary way to teach online. Secondly, Facebook Groups are ideal to keep children and their families informed and connected between Zoom sessions. Facebook live or pre-recorded Facebook videos are another option, but do not allow for the direct interaction with children that Zoom allows.

Other platforms with direct interaction include Google Meet and Microsoft Teams.

Super Simple Studio

Teaching remotely is based primarily on person-to-person interaction. The children are to be first connected to their teacher and the content, and all visual aids, graphics, back drops, and props are designed to enhance the experience for children.

- **The Setting:** Choose a space that is well-lit and bright that limits the possibility of other noises that will distract the children or you as you teach.
- **Arrangement:** Decide if you will stand or sit for your presentations, then prepare a table space accordingly. Plan for a table that is appropriate in height for your situation and cover it with a simple cloth. Solid, dark colors work well (especially black), but anything will do.
- **Backdrops and Props:** It's not necessary to invest in custom backdrops when Zoom allows for a custom background! You can upload virtually any picture of your choice for your background. A helpful video from Zoom can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/3Zq-b51A3dA>
- **Camera:** Smart phones (Apple and Android), tablets (Apple and Android), and computers (PCs and Macs) will work just fine. Keep it simple by using a device that connects to the internet and has a camera.
- **Tripod:** Tripods help to avoid awkward camera angles. Modestly priced options can be found online and make your ministry much more enjoyable. Some tripods are equipped with led light rings that meet two needs in one package. Keep it super simple.
- **Screen Sharing:** Have your graphics for each lesson ready to share on screen. A helpful video from Zoom on how to share content during a meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA6SGQVmcA>
- **Sharing Zoom to Your Facebook Group:** Your Zoom meeting can also be shared to your Facebook group. This is helpful for anyone who may miss the meeting and would like to view it at a later time. Details on how to configure and use this feature of Zoom can be found here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115000350406-Live-streaming-meetings-or-webinars-on-Facebook>

Length of Online Lessons

ROOTS online lesson scripts are designed to last no more than 30 minutes to keep children engaged and not extend beyond their attention span. “Zoom fatigue” can be avoided by being conscious of the unique opportunities and limitations of online teaching and adjusting to be most helpful to children and their families.

Engaging Family Members

Do you have moms, dads, grandparents or caregivers who would like to volunteer? Have them on the call as additional hosts in your zoom meeting and have them take part in the teaching! Use online engagement as a way to empower parents to participate.

Weekly Social Media Posts

Each lesson of ROOTS comes with a seven-day social media schedule. Graphics and suggested post text are offered for six out of every seven days. The non-post day is a good opportunity to prepare and schedule your posts for the coming week. The posts speak both children and families, so be sure to encourage parents, grandparents and caregivers to join your Facebook group.

Weekly Preparation to Present Online

Below are helpful tips for each time you go LIVE:

1. Go LIVE on Zoom (and also to Facebook live if you so choose) a few minutes prior to your start time. Just like teachers are often prepared and ready in their classroom or other in-person ministry settings prior to children arriving, the same is true of online ministry. Be ready, be prepared, have your materials and graphics ready, and go live online about five minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
2. As the kids are joining the group, talk with them and remind them to have their Bible and ROOTS notebooks available. Occasionally, the children will be asked to provide materials. Remind about those as well.
3. If you are using a camera operator, have that person update you as to who is joining so you can greet each child. This adds a warm and personal touch.

More Tips for Great Online Presentations

1. **Be You:** Be yourself; don't worry about what the set looks like. You kids will love to see your face and hear your voice! Keep your focus on them!
2. **Pace:** Keep things moving. Move seamlessly from one element to the next.
3. **Mistakes? Oh well:** If you make a mistake, it's okay. Your kids will enjoy you being you.
4. **Engage:** Engage the kids online just like you would in person. Allow them to answer just like they would in class or to respond in the comments (Facebook). Kids want to engage, so ask them to.



ROOTS Images, Printable PDFs, and Videos

ROOTS contains four kinds of visual aids to add to the children's learning experience: graphics for projection, graphics as printable PDFs, graphics for use in social media, and videos.



Projection Graphics are designed to be used in concert with the teaching times to add visual interest to your presentation. Whether you use a large screen TV or video projector, these images, Bibles verses, and other prompts help engage the children with visual enhancements to the spoken teaching.

- The projection graphics come in two formats: wide (16:9) and tall (square) to suit projection, social media sharing, or online video formats where the teacher is side-by-side on the screen with the graphic being used.



Printable PDFs are provided to assist you in teaching when tangible objects are needed. For example, in Lesson 1 of Section 1, you will ask a volunteer to come up front and pretend to be a tree. As you attach “fruit” to the tree (and other things like roots), the fruit images are provided in a PDF for you to print and use. Other PDFs are provided for object lessons and crafts throughout ROOTS.



Videos are provided as well. For example, the Lord's Prayer is the basis for prayer stations. In addition to teaching the children to recite the Lord's Prayer, you will also teach the prayer in sign language. We provide two videos to assist in that process. On Location videos are also provided to give the kids a glimpse into scenes from the Holy Land.



Social Media Graphics are designed to be used in your ministries' social media platform(s) to engage children. The size and ratio of these graphics work well with popular social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Links in the PDF documents are interactive and allow you to download each graphic, then post to your preferred social media platform.

ROOTS lesson PDFs are interactive and contain links to all videos and graphic resources.

How Graphics are numbered

ROOTS graphics are numbered as follows: **(Section Number)** . **(Lesson Number)** . **(Graphic Number)**

1.1.14 is an example of a ROOTS graphic number.

Section 1 – Lesson 1 – Graphic 14

This numbering rubric was designed to help you easily identify the origin of the graphic. Please note that graphics are often repeated in subsequent lessons as needed for review or reinforcement of teaching points.



Materials Lists for Lessons and Crafts

The following lessons require teachers to acquire materials that could take more than a couple of days to acquire — i.e., you might not be able to find them at the local grocery store or Target.

The table below will indicate which lessons you should reference so that you can adequately plan for each lesson. Keep in mind that many of the materials will be used again in the review lessons for each section.

It is almost always the case that teachers are asked to choose games from the Teacher's Resource Guide to use when teaching/reviewing the memory verses in each lesson. We recommend preparing materials for all of the games at the beginning of the series so that they are available as needed for each lesson.

These items are commonly used in most lessons, so keeping a supply on hand throughout the series is recommended:

- pencils
- crayons
- safety scissors
- glue sticks
- blue painter's tape
- multi-colored markers (wide and fine tips)
- dry erase markers/eraser or chalkboard chalk/erasers, depending on how your teaching area is equipped
- construction paper and cardstock (many lessons are color specific)
- washable paints, paintbrushes
- balloons

Section 1: Jesus, Love, and Joy

Lesson	Lesson Element(s)	Materials
1: Bearing Much Fruit	Sermon; Online Sessions	ROOTS notebook
2: Who Is Jesus?	Activity/Craft; Object Lesson; Online Session 1	Glow sticks; neon watercolor paints; black light
4: God Is Love	Sermon	Glow sticks
5: Love Yourself	Sermon	Red heart stickers
6: Love Others	Hook; Sermon; Online Session 1	Conversation heart candies; firewood/log
9: Joy for Others	Object Lesson	Stickers in 4 colors, 100 of each
10: Let's Review	Activity/Craft	Craft sticks, glow sticks

Section 2: Peace, Patience, and Presence

Lesson	Lesson Element(s)	Materials
5: Patience Like Joseph	Activity/Craft	Rainbow-colored yarn; gold metallic ribbon
6: Patience for All the World	Sermon; Online Session 1	3-dimensional impression toy, Play-Doh™ or modeling clay
8: Hearing God 9: Who Am I in Christ? 10: Let's Review	Sermon; Online Sessions; Activity/Craft	Monkey noodles; switch pitch ball; fishing net; magazine pictures

Section 3: Good-for-You Fruit

Lesson	Lesson Element(s)	Materials
1: Kindness	Hook; Activity/Craft	Unshelled nuts; landscaping rocks
2: Kindness Like Jesus	Hook; Sermon; Online Session 1	Ping Pong balls; confetti cannons or poppers
3: Faithfulness	Hook	Empty tp rolls, 1 per child;
5: Gentleness	Sermon; Activity/Craft; Object Lesson; Online Sessions	Sandpaper; large stones; disposable tarp; buttons with holes of specified size
6: Being Gentle Like Jesus	Hook; Sermon	Feathers; sandpaper
7: Self-Control	Object Lesson	Bubble machine (optional); small bottles of gift bubbles for each child
9: Goodness	Object Lesson; Online Session 2	Realistic fake fruit, 3 pieces
10: Taste and See	Object Lesson; Online Session 2	Dark-colored gravel or rocks
11: Let's Review	Activity/Craft	Shrinky Dink craft paper; key chains
12: Roots 2: Final Review — Rooted	Activity/Craft; Object Lesson; Online Session 2	Empty tp rolls; Tacky Glue (fast drying); realistic fake fruit, 1 piece

Encouraging Use of Bibles and ROOTS Notebooks



Helping Kids Learn to Use a Journal

Provide each child with a simple notebook to use as a personal journal. During many lessons, children are asked to use these notebooks to write down thoughts or images that come to mind as they learn the lessons, pray, or meditate on Scripture. Introspection and reflection are powerful disciplines for spiritual formation.



Helping Kids Learn to Use Their Bibles

ROOTS regularly includes times where children are asked to open up their Bibles to read Scripture. This may be an entirely new experience for some children, so patience and persistence are needed in those situations.

For children who do not own a Bible, consider purchasing some inexpensive Bibles for your classroom so they will be readily available.

Kids will need to learn how to find particular Scriptures in their Bibles. This is where you can help them learn how the Bible is structured and how Books, Chapters and Verses were designed to help us easily find a Scripture. The Bible Skill Drills provided in this resource will be invaluable in teaching this skill.

Helping Kids Understand Differences in Translations

At times, you will ask the kids to read Scripture aloud together. If the kids have different translations of the Scriptures, that could be confusing. ROOTS uses the New Living Translation (NLT) primarily but also draws on the New International Version (NIV), English Standard Version (ESV) and King James Version (for the Lord's Prayer) (KJV).

If children are eager to read, but have differing translations, invite many kids to read and discuss the differences. Many of the Scriptures are provided on the projection graphics included with each lesson, but please do not substitute them for the opportunity to have your kids open the Bible and read.



Memory Verse Games

Each ROOTS Memory Verse Game is designed to help hide the Word of God in the hearts of the children to whom you minister. These tips will help you successfully use the games.

1. Begin by showing the graphic of the memory verse. A graphic is included for each new memory verse and is referenced in each lesson.
2. Use your Bibles. Look up the verse in your own Bible, whether you're teaching online or in person; also have the kids pick up a Bible and look up the verse themselves. Help them learn how to find Scripture references in the Bible so they develop the beautiful habit of using it.

Memory Verse Games: Choose from the list below to review each memory verse. Rotate the activities and repeat their favorites often. About half are suitable for or can be modified for the online presentations as well.

You can use these games to work on the entire memory verse or even sections of the verse if it is a longer passage. With online lessons, consider mailing (or personally delivering) to the game winners some small prize— a piece of gum or candy, a few stickers, a new pencil, or some other trinket that would be enjoyable and appropriate for children.

3. **Sparkle:** Have the children all stand up right where they are seated. Going around the room in order, each child says a word of the verse. If a child misses the word or doesn't know it, he/she sits down. After the last word of the Bible verse is said, the next child says "sparkle" (just a fun word) and the following child has to be seated. The game ends when only one child remains standing. If you need a tiebreaker, require timed answers — each child must respond within two or three seconds with the next word or be seated. This game works best before the children have had much opportunity to work on memorizing the verse.

For an online presentation: Have all the children stand. Call on the children to answer in the order they appear on the meeting screen or use an alphabetical list. Just like in person, they remain standing if they got the word right or sit down if they didn't. When you finish the verse, call on the next student to say "sparkle" and the next child is seated. Repeat until only one child remains standing.

4. **Puzzling:** Print the Bible verse on copy paper and cut it into pieces. Spread the pieces around the room. Have the children find the pieces and put it together like a puzzle. Recite the verse together. If you have a large group, print the verse on multiple colors of paper. Divide the class into teams, with each team being assigned a specific color. The first team to complete the puzzle wins.

For an online presentation: The pieces for online can be just nine squares, three rows of three if you wish.

Number each piece in the upper left corner, one through nine. The numbers should NOT correspond to where the piece is located in the puzzle. For example, the first piece on the left side of the top row would NOT be number one.

Display all the pieces in a single row in view of the camera, but out of order. Explain to the children that the nine pieces can be assembled in three rows to show the memory verse, and you want them to tell you which piece to place at the top left, top middle, top right, second row left, second row middle, etc. Kids can describe the piece you need to place next using the numbers.

5. **Musical Chairs:** Place chairs in a circle with one less chair than children. While playing music, children walk around the circle. When the music stops, all the children find a chair (one will be left standing). Whoever is left standing has to recite the Bible verse. If correct, they get to „knock“

someone else out of the game and take their chair. If not answered correctly, they have to sit out! Continue to play removing a chair each time until only one player remains.

6. **Stack 'Em:** Write each word from the verse on the rim of a styrofoam cup with the cup turned upside-down. Make several sets. Children will stack the words in order with the first word on bottom and the last word on the top. Divide the class into teams and let them race to see who completes the stack in the correct order the fastest.

For an online presentation: Make only one set of cups. Put the words on the rim (with the cup upside down), and then number each cup on the side (directly above the word) with random numbers that are out of order, like: 17, 22, 4, 26, 9, 40, etc. So the first word should NOT be number one. Mix up the cups in view of the camera and have the children help you find the next cup to stack by calling out the number of the next word. You can have two teams and time each one; the fastest time wins.

7. **Verse Mix Up:** Write each word of the verse on a sticky note. Hang sticky notes in the correct order on a white board/chalkboard. Have the children say the verse together and remove a word or two each time you repeat the verse until all the words are gone.

For an online presentation: This is appropriate as described above.

8. **Line 'Em Up:** Write each word of the verse on a tongue depressor. Put all the depressors in a cup, words down. Have each child pick a depressor and line them up in the correct order according to the verse. Option: make several sets and have children work in teams to put the depressors in the correct order on the floor. The first team to complete the verse accurately wins.

9. **Verse Basketball:** Crumple up several pieces of copy paper. Divide the class into two teams. Alternating turns from one team to another, after a child says the verse (or the next word) correctly, they get a chance to “shoot” the crumpled-up paper (the basketball) into the trashcan. A basket earns a point. The first team to reach ten points wins. Lower the points to decrease the amount of time needed for the game.

Alternate options: Use small Styrofoam or rubber balls instead of paper, or use a real basketball and basketball hoop. Another option is to turn the trash can on its side and allow the kids to shoot nerf darts into the can.

10. **Build It:** Write or tape each word of the verse on a plastic or wooden building block. The object of the game is to have the kids stack the blocks in the correct order, first word on the bottom. Divide the kids into two teams, and the winner is the team with the tallest tower at the end of a designated time or the first team to complete the verse tower.

11. **Clip:** Write each word of the memory verse on a clothespin. Kids will clip the words in the correct order on a clothesline or around a paper plate for shorter verses. You can do this as a class or in teams.

For an online presentation: Hang a clothesline in view of the camera. Put each word of the verse on a piece of paper and clip each word to the clothesline out of order. Allow the children to call out the words and help you put them in the correct order on the clothesline.

12. **Tic-Tac-Toe:** Split the kids equally into two groups. Using blue painter's tape, make a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on the floor. Make five each of X's and O's with paper plates. Alternate between the “X” team and the “O” team. When a child says the memory verse correctly (or the portion you are working on in that lesson), they get to place an X or O in the Tic-Tac-Toe grid. Play until one of the two teams wins.

For an online presentation: Make a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on a flat surface using blue painter's tape. (You can use an easel or a wall if you wish, but then you will need a way to make the X's and O's

stick to the spaces; two-sided tape is one option.) Make five each of the X's and O's using paper plates. Divide the students into two teams, X's and O's. You call on the children one at a time from each team to say the verse or the portion you're working on. When a child says it correctly, that child gets to tell you where to place an X or O in the Tic-Tac-Toe grid for their team (using top right, bottom middle, etc.) Play until one of the two teams wins.

13. Crazy Cards: Make at least six cards with numbers on one side and instructions on the other side for something fun to do while repeating the verse. Card examples: Say the verse while walking in place. Say the verse while holding your tongue. Say the verse while pinching your nose. Say the verse while turning around. Say the verse while hopping up and down on one foot. Say the verse while patting your head and rubbing your stomach. Lay out the cards with the numbers showing. Call on children to choose a number, then have everyone say the verse together while following the instructions on the card.

For an online presentation: This is appropriate as described above.



Bible Skill Drills

Choose from these activities based on your assessment of the kids' familiarity with the Bible:

1. Letter Cards Basket:

Provide a basket of cards or tiles containing the letters of the alphabet. Have kids take turns choosing a letter and then naming a Bible book that begins with that letter. Older kids or those more familiar with the Bible can name as many additional books beginning with that same letter as possible. You may want to print an alphabetized list for your own reference to use during this drill.

2. Cup Stack:

Option 1: Write the books of the Bible on the outside rim of Styrofoam cups, with the cup turned upside down. Have the kids work together to stack the cups in the correct order, Genesis being the bottom cup.

Option 2: Have two children compete with two sets of cups to see who can put the cups in order the fastest. Have two teams compete, with each child either adding a cup or making a correction to someone else's placement on each turn.

3. Beach Ball:

Write the books of the Bible on a beach ball. Have the children form either a circle or stand in two lines across from each other, always standing several feet apart. They will toss the ball from child to child either around the circle or back and forth from line to line in a zig zag pattern. When each child catches the ball, having that person say the name of the book that is closest to their left thumb, then name the book either before it or after it before tossing the ball to the next person.

4. Quarter the Bible:

Teach kids to quarter the Bible by having them repeatedly practice finding these locations, which are each about a quarter of the Bible (not including reference material like concordances). This will be especially helpful to them in finding references once they have memorized the order of the books of the Bible. Each time they find a book, they must close the Bible all the way before you give the next instruction.

- Ask the kids to divide the Bible roughly in half to find Psalms, which is about half way through the Bible.
- Have them divide the front half to locate Judges; Genesis to Judges is roughly the first quarter of the Bible.
- Have them divide the back half to find Matthew (pointing out that this book is the first of the four Gospels, and the beginning of the New Testament), which is about three quarters of the way through the Bible.

5. Bible Book Clues:

Give children clues to a book and see how quickly they can guess the name of the book. Some of the questions will be more appropriate for older children. To add difficulty, you can ask the kids to tell whether the answer they give is in the Old or New Testament after they give the book.

- Which book tells the story of Ananias and Saphira? (Acts)
- Which book is found in the middle of the Bible? (Psalms)
- What is the longest book of the Bible if counting the words and not verses? (Jeremiah)
- Which book tells the story of a man who was thrown into a lion's den for praying to God? (Daniel)

- e. Which book is the story of Jesus on earth written by a tax collector, giving a detailed accounting of the earthly genealogy (or family tree) of Jesus? (Matthew)
- f. Which book tells the story of a widow woman feeding the prophet Elijah with her last bit of food and God miraculously multiplying her flour and oil to feed her and her son for the rest of the famine? (1 Kings)
- g. What is the first book of the Bible? (Genesis)
- h. What is the last book of the Old Testament? (Malachi)
- i. Which book is the story of Jesus on earth written by one of the apostles that contains a very well-known verse that begins, "For God so loved the world..."? (John)
- j. Which book tells the story of a man who ran from God and was swallowed by a big fish? (Jonah)
- k. Which book of the Bible records the death of David and the reign and death of Solomon? (1 Kings)
- l. Which book tells the story of God delivering the Jews from bondage in the land of Egypt? (Exodus)
- m. Which book of the Bible contains many songs of the Jews? (Psalms)
- n. Which book tells the story of the man who took over as the leader of the Jews when Moses died? (Joshua)
- o. Which book in the New Testament contains a famous chapter on love? (1 Corinthians)
- p. Which book of the Bible tells a story about a woman who leaves her home country to follow her mother-in-law; she gathered grain in the field of her future husband; she and her husband are part of the lineage (family tree) of Jesus? (Ruth)
- q. Which book tells the story of children attacked by bears because they made fun of the prophet Elisha and mocked him for being bald? (2 Kings)
- r. Which Bible book's name means "beginnings"? (Genesis)
- s. Which book tells the personal history of the last man to serve as one of the 13 judges of Israel? (1 Samuel)
- t. Which book of the Bible tells us about the ministry of the prophet Elijah? (1 Kings)
- u. Which book of the Bible tells about the man who led the Jews in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity? (Nehemiah)
- v. Which book of the Bible tells about a Jewish woman who became a queen and the wife of King Ahasuerus so God could use her to deliver the Jews from death at the hands of a man named Haman? (Esther)
- w. Which book is the story of Jesus on earth written by a doctor? (Luke)
- x. Which book of the Bible tells about a man who lost all ten of his children and almost all of his servants and livestock, but he did not sin by speaking against God? (Job)
- y. Which book is considered a book full of wisdom? (Proverbs)
- z. Which book tells about God humbling the prideful king, Nebuchadnezzar, and making him live outside like an animal and eat grass to humble him so that he would acknowledge God's power among men? (Daniel)
- aa. Which book of the Bible tells us about Elisha's ministry after Elijah was taken up into heaven? (2 Kings)
- ab. Which book tells the story of Abraham? (Genesis)

- ac. Which book of the Bible tells about the wicked king Belshazzar and a hand appearing to write a message on the wall that prophesied how Belshazzar would be judged by God for his wickedness? (Daniel)
- ad. Which books were written to the church at Corinth? (1 and 2 Corinthians)
- ae. Which book of the Bible records the building of the temple? (1 Kings)
- af. Which book of the Bible tells the story of Samson and Delilah? (Judges)
- ag. Which book tells about David killing the giant Goliath? (1 Samuel)
- ah. Which book tells about the Holy Spirit coming down upon the Christians like a fire after Jesus returned to heaven after the crucifixion and also tells about the beginning of the church as we know it today as Jesus' apostles spread the gospel of Jesus throughout the known world? (Acts)
- ai. Which book tells about three Hebrew children who were carried into captivity and thrown into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship the king instead of God? (Daniel)
- aj. Which book is the story of Jesus on earth written by a man also called John, and written to show Jesus as a Servant? (Mark)
- ak. Which book tells of the men raised up to be leaders in Israel following Joshua's death? (Judges)
- al. Which book tells the story of creation? (Genesis)
- am. Which book in the New Testament contains the famous chapter on faith? (Hebrews)
- an. Which book tells us what will happen here on earth during the time known as the tribulation? (Revelation)

6. Old and New:

Have kids put their left hand at the beginning of Genesis and their right hand at the end of Malachi—explain this is the Old Testament. Repeat with Matthew and Revelation for the New Testament.

7. Books of the Bible Game:

This fun game will help children learn and review which books are in which Testament.

Divide the group into two teams, the Old Testament Team, and New Testament Team.

Divide the room down the center with two lines about five feet apart made of painter's tape. The teams line up along the lines going down the center of the room, ready to run!

The leader calls out the name of a book in the Bible. If it is a New Testament book, the New Testament Team charges and tries to tag anyone on the Old Testament Team while they retreat to the wall behind them. Once they reach the wall, they are „safe.“ However, if they get tagged, they must join the other team.

Likewise, if an Old Testament book is called out, then the Old Testament Team charges and tries to tag New Testament Team members while they retreat to the wall behind them. If your room isn't set up to allow this, simply use four lines made of tape, with the outside lines being the “safe” lines of retreat.

After each book is called and the chase is finished, each team returns to their line.

The excitement is in the fact that the kids do not know whether they will be charging or retreating until a book is called out. They need to be right up to the line ready to charge in case their Testament is called (or they won't be able to catch anyone retreating), but they must also be ready to retreat if the other team charges.

This also helps review the books of the Bible because they have to think fast as to which Testament the books are in. Hesitation, or the wrong assumption, will put them quickly on the opposite team. But that's not so bad since no one is „out.“

Encourage the kids whenever they switch teams to be enthusiastic about their new team. A fun-loving, energetic leader playing with the kids can help to model a good spirit regardless of the team they are on. Continue until everyone is on the same team or game time is over.

8. *Spill the Sticks:*

Write the names of the books of the Bible on popsicle sticks.

Option 1: Dump them out in a pile and have the kids separate them into Old and New Testament or put them in the correct order.

Option 2: Divide the kids into two teams and give each team sticks that contains all the books of the Bible. See which team can divide the sticks or put the sticks in the correct order the fastest.

9. *Bible Jump Rope:*

Using a long jump rope, have two kids turning the rope and one jumper. The jumper says the books of the Bible, one per jump, until they can't remember the next one or until they get the order wrong. The child who can say the most books in order without missing a jump wins a prize.

10. *Bible Ball Bounce:*

Two children bounce the ball back and forth between them as each child in turn says a book in order. The team of two that names all the books in the correct order, or who makes it the farthest, without making a mistake or missing the ball, wins. Be prepared to have multiple winning teams if you are giving out prizes.

11. *Clip it!*

Write the books of the Bible on clothespins. Give out clothespins, going around the room. When everyone has a clothespin, start over again. Children will have multiple clothespins, but should not have three books of the Bible in order.

Option 1: String a line of some kind and have the children bring up the clothespins in the correct order and pin them onto the line.

Option 2: Make two sets of clothespins and have competing teams to see who can complete the list the fastest in the correct order. If you do this, set a "starting line" and use the rule that the next person can't leave the starting line with the next clothespin until the previous person is back behind the line after placing their clothespin in order.

Don't make any corrections to the order until all clothespins are placed. Incorrect order means that team loses. If both teams have errors in the order, the team with the first error in the order loses.

12. *Bible Drill*

Do a simple Bible drill using the terms "Attention! Present Bibles," meaning the kids would be holding their closed Bibles in their hands or on their laps. Call out a reference for verses one at a time that have been part of ROOTS. The first child to find the verse, stand and begin reading wins that round.

13.10 Seconds:

Using a stopwatch set at ten seconds, kids must locate the book name called out and also say the names of the books both before and after within ten seconds. As this becomes easier for the kids, shorten the time.

14.Hopscotch:

Make a hopscotch pattern on the floor with blue painter's tape. Let the kids take turns saying the books of the Bible in order as they hop. As soon as they miss a book or a square, it is the next child's turn.

15.Jenga:

Option 1: Write one book of the Bible on each block. Kids take turns tapping out the books of the Bible in order.

Option 2: Label two sets of blocks, stack the blocks in identical patterns as far as book placement, divide the kids into two teams, and see which team gets the farthest before the tower collapses. You will need to be somewhat strategic in the placement of your blocks so the tower doesn't collapse too soon.

Option 3: Stack the two sets of blocks in any order. Allow the teams to tap out the blocks in any order they wish, and then put the books in the correct order. The winner is the team with the most blocks in the order they appear in the Bible once the tower collapses, even if all of the books of the Bible aren't there. You can even set a timer to encourage faster play. With a timer, the object would be to tap out as many books as possible in the allotted time, but they don't count if they aren't in the correct order.



Music Resources

Singing engages children in worship and helps to embed the truth of God's Word into their hearts and minds.

ROOTS offers suggestions for songs but does not include any original music.

You will find these suggested songs on the Overview Page for each lesson. For example, in Section 1, Lesson 1, the following songs are recommended:

Suggested songs:

1. "What a Beautiful Name," Yancy Ministries
2. "Great Are You, Lord," WorshipHouseKids

Yancy Ministries (<https://yancyministries.com>) is the recommended source for the first song if you choose not to sing/lead the song using your own worship leader(s). You can also search YouTube for many of these titles (e.g. Search YouTube for "What a Beautiful Name Yancy").

WorshipHouseKids (<https://www.worshiphousekids.com>) is another great source for worship songs to complement ROOTS. YouTube may host a number of these songs, but they are available for licensing at very affordable prices.

Whether you use these suggested resources or have people in your team who can lead worship for children, we highly encourage you to use music as a component of your ministry to kids.

YouTube Links change frequently. These links were active at the time of publication but are likely to change without notice.

Section 1

Suggested songs:

1. "What a Beautiful Name," Yancy Ministries https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV1zuoS_yE8
2. "Great Are You, Lord," Good Kicks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzSKDT34BXg>
3. "I Found Love," Big Big Worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k_NMMsozWO
4. "Love the Lord," Shout Praise Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdMlxCdIY-c>
5. "Joy," All Star Kids Club (lyrics are not provided in this video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQdQkUg8M_A&list=OLAK5uy_nJtD5abST8hJgilll6v4RZckzfHkQ0OfY

Section 2

Suggested songs:

1. "It Is Well," Yancy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfSeVOPSXLw>
2. "Oceans," Yancy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQygv0Xt6qM>

Section 3

Suggested songs:

1. "Joy," Seed Family Worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAj_ats0Hzo
2. "Angels We Have Heard on High," Love to Sing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRHuETZuLEo>
3. "This Is Amazing Grace," Kids Version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwDRdbtxMc8>
4. "At the Cross" ("Love Ran Red"), Brentwood Benson Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYj83RuBZgw>

FMC History Lessons

Suggested songs:

1. “Made in the Image,” Yancy Ministries (<https://www.worshiphousekids.com/kids-worship-song-tracks/94745/made-in-the-image>)



Lectio Divina

(*Latin for “Divine Reading”*)

In ROOTS, we teach the children a reflective practice that has been used for centuries. It's called Lectio Divina, or *Divine Reading*. In ROOTS, it's often referred to as simply “Lectio.”

Through Lectio Divina, children spend time with God to hear His voice through Bible reading, meditation, prayer and contemplating Scripture. It's a wonderful practice to help kids learn how to listen to the Spirit's voice. Then the children will record what they hear or see in their mind in their ROOTS notebook, which serves as a prayer journal among other things.

The purpose is to promote communion with God and increase the children's knowledge of Scripture. Our desire is to help them learn to treat the Bible as the living Word of God and experience how God demonstrates His loving authority over our lives through His Word.

ROOTS uses a variety of Scriptures. One key to the Lectio Divina is that the reader or teacher does not expound on the passage. Do not add personal commentary or try to explain the verse in any way. Let the Scripture stand on its own.

Be consistent if the children are initially impatient with the silence and meditation. It might take some time for the children to engage but keep encouraging them to do so. In Lectio, the **process** is initially more important than the **outcome**.



Prayer Basis – The Lord's Prayer

ROOTS is designed to engage children in praying. Prayer Stations are interactive centers that help children focus their prayers in specific ways or on specific topics. The path to praying begins with teaching a Prayer Basis.

ROOTS: Fruit of the Spirit focuses on The Lord's Prayer. The goal is for children and their families to understand the meaning behind each phrase and then pray based on that deeper knowledge. Parents and guardians are encouraged to pray over their children using The Lord's Prayer as well in each Home Connection guide.

Therefore, the prayer basis is a series of teaching that leads to actively praying by using the prayer stations.

Why ROOTS chose the King James Version (KJV) to teach the Lord's Prayer. While many new translations have emerged in the last three decades, the Lord's Prayer remains traditionally sung and spoken with the language found in the KJV. The roots of our faith that can be traced through centuries past have given voice to this prayer (in English) in largely this fashion. Teachers, feel free to read other translations to the children and note the differences from one to the other. However, also teach the children that they are speaking the words that people from generations have prayed, and we join them in praying as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer is broken down into the following seven phrases:

1. Our Father which art in heaven
2. Hallowed be thy name
3. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us this day our daily bread.
5. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
6. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
7. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Prayer Journal Preparation (See also, "Encouraging Use of Journals and Bibles")

Provide a small spiral-bound notebook for each child as part of their ROOTS classes. This will be referred to as the ROOTS notebook in the lessons. These will become a personal prayer journal where the children can write thoughts and requests or even draw images as they meditate on Scripture.

If your children meet in person, before the first class, print (in a size that works for the notebooks you will provide) Graphic 1.1.20 and attach it to front of each notebook with a glue stick. On the first day of this new series, have the children write their names on their notebooks since they will leave their notebooks in the classroom or gathering area to use on the weeks when they are needed. You can keep them in a basket in alphabetical order, perhaps with boys in one and girls in another.

As you gather prior to the start of any class where the notebooks will be used, ask the children to retrieve their notebooks and a pencil from a basket you have provided. Make it a routine they can anticipate and enjoy.

Consider encouraging the children to have a similar notebook for home use, and encourage them to use it daily when they pray. Provide additional cover graphics as needed.

For online lessons:

Consider delivering or mailing small notebooks with Graphic 1.1.20 already attached to the cover to each student. A small gift like this does a great deal to establish a connection with children, especially in a remote learning scenario. If this isn't possible, encourage your students to purchase their own notebooks. Perhaps you could mail a printout of the cover graphic for children who don't have the ability to print one at home.



Prayer Stations – The Lord's Prayer

Prayer stations are interactive centers designed specifically for engaging children in prayer through creative means. The Lord's Prayer has seven stations.

Around the perimeter of your teaching room or another gathering area, identify a place for each of these stations. Print and laminate the sign identifying each station and hang them on the walls. Prepare and set up the other materials or items used in each station.

Helping the kids learn to effectively use prayer stations

In ROOTS 2, Section 1, Lesson 9, when the Prayer Stations for The Lord's Prayer are utilized for the first time, you will teach the children what Jesus said about going into our closets to pray (Matthew 6:6). Present prayer stations as a kind of “prayer closet” where they can ask the Holy Spirit what they should pray for and which prayer station(s) to utilize during their prayer time in class.

During this prayer time, the room can be quiet, or you can play instrumental music softly in the background that is conducive to prayer.

From time to time, the prayer stations will change, but several should be constant. Kids like predictability; it is a comfort to them.

Kids can be silent, and they can pray and hear from the Lord. We must teach them with faithful expectation that God will meet them. Teach them how to pray!

If it seems the kids aren't adapting well to using prayer stations, please don't give up! It might take a few times for the children to learn the routine.

In the beginning, you will likely need to moderate the children's movements and remind them how to use each station. Once they are comfortable with the prayer stations, you can spend this time walking around the room praying for the kids, or make yourself available if kids want to pray with you.

Below are directions for preparing each Prayer Station while teaching The Lord's Prayer: (Instructions for the children are given in ROOTS2, Section 1, Lesson 9.)

1. Our Father which art in heaven

Materials: Graphic 1.9.3 — Prayer Station 1 Sign, 2' x 3' sticky paper, washable markers

Preparation: Hang sticky paper low enough on the wall that the kids can write on it; provide washable markers. Title the paper “God Sightings.”

Follow Up: Replace the paper as it fills up. (These are meaningful samples to hang outside your children's areas so parents and church family can read them.)

2. Hallowed be Thy name

Materials: Graphic 1.9.4 — Prayer Station 2 Sign, 50 multi-colored paper strips 1"x4", pencils, Graphic 1.9.10 — Names of God, a stapler

Preparation: Place the paper strips, the stapler, and pencils on a small table and hang the names of God graphic on the wall above the table. You should make three or four circles as an example and hang the beginning of your chain from the prayer station sign. (See picture.)

Follow up: Replace the paper as needed. As the chain gets longer and longer, attach it to the wall in a zigzag shape.



3. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Materials: Graphic 1.9.5 — Prayer Station 3 Sign; Graphic 1.9.11 — Circle graphic (2'x2' to 3'x3' in size); bulletin board, easel or 3'x3' sticky paper; 3"x3" heart stickers, fine point washable markers

Preparation: Print the circle graphic and attach it to the bulletin board, easel or large sticky paper. Have the supply of heart stickers and markers on a table next to the bulletin board.

4. *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Materials: Graphic 1.9.6 — Prayer Station 4 Sign; Graphics 1.9.12-15 — Daily Bread Scriptures, highlighters, pencils; since the children can take their Scriptures home with them if they want, you may need multiple copies of Graphics 1.9.12-15, depending on the number of children in your class.

Preparation: Print 1.9.12-15 on large 11x17 paper, double spaced. Post these on the wall at this prayer station, low enough for the children to write on. Put highlighters and pencils nearby.

5. *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

Materials: Graphic 1.9.7 — Prayer Station 5 Sign; white board (any size), dry-erase markers, dry erase eraser

Preparation: Hang the white board or supply an easel; provide dry erase markers and eraser nearby.

6. *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Materials: Graphic 1.9.8 — Prayer Station 6 Sign, 10 small stones or pebbles, and two wide-mouth shallow dishes that will hold all 10 stones

Preparation: Place the stones in one of the two containers on a table next to the prayer station sign. Place the empty container next to it.

7. *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

Materials: Graphic 1.9.9 — Prayer Station 7 Sign, battery-powered tea lights (1 per student)

Preparation: Put the tea lights in a small basket near the prayer station sign.



Prayer Stations for Advent

Advent Prayer Station Materials:

Hope — battery powered tea lights, enough for roughly a fourth of the class

Joy — pipe cleaners, one per child

Love — heart-shaped candies, one per child

Peace — star cutout, about five inches wide; pencils, enough for roughly a fourth of the class; large sheet of chart paper on an easel or sticky paper with PEACE written across the top or use a whiteboard or chalkboard space

Prayer Station Sign Graphics: Print one copy of Graphics C.1.12-15 and hang them around your teaching area.

During this Christmas season, these four prayer stations use the four elements that are the focus of the Advent Season: hope, love, joy and peace.

Station 1: HOPE — The Bible describes the coming Savior as the hope of the whole world. Matthew 12:21 tells us this about Jesus, *“And his name will be the hope of all the world.”* In the New Testament, we read about a man named Simeon who had been promised by God when he was a young man that he would see the Messiah before he died. And he waited and hoped for this to happen for many years. When Jesus was born, God revealed to Simeon that Jesus was the Messiah, and he was able to hold Baby Jesus in his arms and say a prayer of blessing for His life. Simeon’s hope was fulfilled in Jesus.

Just as Simeon waited and hoped for so long to meet the Messiah, what do you hope and pray for? The light from a candle has long been a symbol of hope. In the Hope Prayer Station, we will use small battery-powered tea light candles. As you pray about what you are hoping for, you can light a candle as a symbol of your hope that God will bring it to pass. (The switch that will turn it on is on the bottom.)

Station 2: JOY — In Luke 2:10, an angel spoke to the shepherds to let them know Jesus had been born. *“But the angel reassured them, ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.’”* Just as Simeon was overcome with joy to hold the Messiah, and just as these shepherds felt joy to hear of the birth of the baby Jesus, ask the children to consider what brings them joy. Using the pipe cleaner, they will create a symbol for something that brings them joy.

Station 3: LOVE — God showed His great love for all of mankind...for us...by sending His only Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins. John 3:16 says, *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”* Just as God showed His love for us, ask the children who God has given them who loves them and whom they love in return. They can eat one of the heart candies as they thank God for two things: His great love, and also for those they love who love them in return.

Station 4: PEACE — Isaiah 9:6 tells us, *“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* God’s Son, Jesus, came to bring peace to the world. Have the kids think about someone or some situation in their world that needs peace. They can write something to remind them of that person or situation, then place it on the poster (or on the white/chalkboard) underneath the word peace as they pray for Jesus to bring peace to that person or situation.



Home Connection PDFs

HOME CONNECTION: Helping families grow ROOTS at home.

Each lesson of ROOTS includes a PDF called HOME CONNECTION, a resource for families to reinforce the lessons of ROOTS and grow deep roots in Jesus at home. HOME CONNECTION is provided as a PDF that you can print and send home, email to parents or caregivers, or post to social media groups for your children's ministry.

The following components are used in HOME CONNECTION:

The following content is presented in almost every lesson of ROOTS: Fruit of the Spirit:

- **Key Idea:** a recap of the main thought of the lesson.
- **Bible Basis:** the Scriptures used in the lesson for families to look up and read together.
- **Memory Verse:** the verse that children are currently committing to memory.
- **Lesson Summary:** an insight into the lesson for parents and caregivers to follow and reinforce at home.
- **Questions and discussion topics:** All ROOTS lessons have a discussion question time. HOME CONNECTION lets parents and caregivers continue the conversation at home, bringing Jesus into the family's daily conversations.
- **Home Challenge:** Many lessons contain an activity to try at home to reinforce the lesson topics and build the faith of the whole family.
- **Prayer:** The faithful prayers of parents and caregivers are priceless for their children. HOME CONNECTION provides suggested prayers to help parents and caregivers give voice to personalized prayers for their children that are based on Scripture.



How to Share the Plan of Salvation with a Child

As often as the Holy Spirit prompts, share God's plan of salvation with your children. When dealing with the eternal soul of a child, it is very important to be certain we share the key points of the Gospel. Using the script below will help you to do this.

What does it mean to receive Jesus as our Savior? It's as simple as A, B, C.

A stands for Admit. **Admit** that you need God's forgiveness for your sin.

Sin is the wrong things we do and everyone — every human being ever born — has sinned. We need God's forgiveness those sins — like lying, or being unkind, or stealing. God says in the Bible in Romans 3:23, *"For everyone has sinned."* God is not surprised that you have sinned, but to receive Jesus, you must admit to Him that you have sinned. Can you think of sins you have done?

When we do wrong here on earth, there is usually a penalty or a payment. If you do wrong at home, you might get a time out or lose a privilege. If someone robs a bank, which is stealing, they might go to jail. The Bible tells us there is a penalty or payment for our sin...and that payment is death, which is another way of saying that we will be separated from God forever. (Romans 6:23) I don't think you want that, do you? The good news of Jesus' gospel is that He loves you and doesn't want to be separated from you either! So...

B stands for Believe. **Believe** that Jesus is God. That might be very confusing to you since we have talked about God being Jesus' Father. But God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are different from us. God is a three-part being — all at the same time, He is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. Though this is hard for us to understand with our human mind because we are not made this way, the Bible tells us this is true...and we can always trust the Bible.

You must also believe that Jesus came to the earth to pay for your sin. Have you ever heard the story of how Jesus died on the cross? When Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross, then rose again from the dead three days later, He did that to pay for our sin because He wants to save us and take us to Heaven to live with Him forever.

John 3:16 tell us, *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who **believes in him** will not perish but have eternal life."*

John 1:12 says, *"But to all who **believed Him** and accepted Him, he gave the right to become the children of God."* If you are willing to believe that Jesus died to pay for your sin, you can receive Him as your Savior.

C stands for Commit. **Commit** to follow Jesus. Romans 10:9 tells us how to do that: *"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

"Saved from what?" you might ask. You will be saved from being separated from God forever in a place of eternal punishment where you will have to pay for your own sins.

I am going to pray for you, asking Jesus to speak to your heart this week. It might be that He will cause you to think about this moment at bedtime or other times throughout your day. Those nudges and thoughts are how Jesus speaks to you. If you would like to ask Jesus to save you, you can ask your mom or dad to help you respond to Jesus when you get home. Or, you can come to me following this class time, and I can help you.

Use the ABC's we talked about today to help you remember what to do if you want to be a follower of Jesus and go to Heaven to live forever with Him someday.

Admit that you have sinned.

Believe that Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross, then rose again from the dead to pay for your sins.

Commit to asking Jesus to forgive your sins and give you eternal life with Him in Heaven someday.

If you feel God is speaking to you about accepting Jesus as your way to Heaven, and you respond to Him by believing He did these things and asking Him to forgive you of your sin, please let an adult know —you can tell me after class or let your parents know when you are with them again.

***Let's pray:** Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us and coming into our lives. Lord, I pray for these kids today. If anyone here has not yet decided to follow You, I pray that You will speak to them and remind them of Your love for them. Give them courage to go to someone they trust to help them make the decision to follow You. You are a good God. Thank You for loving all of us so much. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Savior, Amen.

From the Author: There are many different ideas about how best to help children respond to God's gift of salvation in Jesus. In my own life and ministry, I see my part as being faithful to present the Gospel. Then I must trust the Holy Spirit to draw His children to Himself. If children respond to the call of the Spirit and ask someone to help them commit their lives to Jesus, it seems to strengthen the authenticity of that decision. Follow the promptings of the Spirit. He will lead and guide you.



Helping Kids Understand How the Bible Is Different from Other Books

God's Word is unlike any other form of modern literature. Here are some key points to express to children.

1. The Bible is more like a *bookcase of 66 books*, not a single book.
2. The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit. While people wrote the words, they did so under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, meaning they wrote down what the Holy Spirit told them to write.
3. The Bible is called a "Living Word." No other book has the ability to change us in our heart and soul. No other book can transform us (use the caterpillar/butterfly imagery).
4. The Bible is truth. Other books are *fiction* (made up), while others are only partially true or lies. But God's Word is true. When some people finish reading Scripture out loud in church, they will conclude by saying, "These words are *true*, and they can be *trusted*."

Of course there is much more that could be said, but these four examples can help you assist your students who are not familiar with the Bible to learn how beautiful and unique it is!