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 youth



# ROOTED

ROOTED: WEEK 3

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# Week 3



Rooted Week 3:  
GROW UP



Bible Verses:  
Philippians 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:5-10; Hebrews  
11:1; Galatians 5:22-23; John 13:35; 1  
Corinthians 13:4a



Bottom Line:  
As you grow deeper in your faith, you will  
grow up (mature) and become more like  
Christ.

# SUPPLIES

## IN-PERSON GAME:

Opening Game (In-Person)

Option 1: For each group of 9-10 students, you will need:

- 8 plastic cups
- 1 or 8 sharpie markers
- New Living Translation Bible (or phone with a Bible App)

Option 2

- 8 plastic cups
- Sharpie marker
- New Living Translation Bible (or phone with a Bible App)

## ONLINE GAME:

8 items to stack into a tower (Jenga blocks, Lego blocks, marshmallows, pillows, etc.)

# INTRODUCTION

**SAY:** Welcome, students!

We are continuing our “Rooted” series about the basics of growing in our faith.

As we compare our faith to an apple tree, what are the two parts of the tree we have already talked about?

**Allow for answers. (Seeds and Roots)**

What do seeds remind us of in our spiritual life?

**Allow for answers. (Salvation)**

What do roots remind us of in our spiritual life?

**Allow for answers. (Foundations—God’s love, God’s Word, and relationships with other followers of Jesus)**

What part of the tree do you think we’ll talk about today, and why?

**Allow for answers.**

We are going to talk about growing and maturing in our faith like an apple tree’s trunk, and branches grow from the strong foundation of its roots.

Let’s begin our time together with a game!

# OPENING GAME

**(IN-PERSON VERSION): BUILDING ON YOUR FAITH**

## HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

OPTION 1: ALL PLAY (for larger rooms and smaller groups)

Leader, determine if you are going to split the group into teams of 9 or 10.

You can have one student reading the Scripture, one student writing the character traits on the cups with a marker, and eight students taking cups one at a time to stack them.

OR

You can have one student reading the Scripture, and the eight other students can write their own character trait on their cups, but this requires that each person have their own marker (8 markers), or everyone use the same marker (1 marker)—you may want to add hand sanitizer to the supply list.

The object of this game is to be the first team who builds a faith pyramid that stays up for 30 seconds.

Large Group: I am going to split you into teams of (9/10).

Small Group: Our whole group is going to work together as a team.

Both Groups: One person will be the Bible Reader and read the Scripture aloud, helping us stay on track as we play the game.

The Bible Reader will read the designated Scripture all the way through and then reread it, assigning each student a character trait to write on his/her cup.

The student assigned the first character trait will place his/her cup down as the base of the pyramid.

The student assigned the second character trait will place his/her cup next to the first cup, and so on until the pyramid is built.

Groups of 10: One person will write each character trait on a cup as it is read aloud and hand it to each of the other team members one at a time.

The other team members will take the character cup as it's given to them and stack it in a pyramid on the floor.

Groups of 9: Each student will take his/her marker and write the character trait the Bible Reader tells him/her to write.

Then the students will place their cups on the floor, one cup at a time, to build a pyramid.

Both Groups: Once the pyramid is built, count to 30 (one pyramid, two pyramids, three pyramids, etc.).

The first team to have its pyramid remain standing for 30 seconds is the winner.

Leader, split group into teams of 9 or 10 and hand one person in each group all 8 cups, marker (1 or 8 with hand sanitizer), and Bible (unless that person will be using his/her phone app).

Spread out around the room and try to remain as socially distanced as you can.

Bible Readers, open your Bibles to 2 Peter 1:5-9, but don't read it until I say, "Go!"

Remember, you will read this passage aloud all the way through, then reread it, assigning a character trait for each student on your team to write on his/her cup to then stack onto the pyramid.

If the cups slip down onto each other or the pyramid breaks, only the person who was given the character trait can touch his/her cup to fix or rebuild the pyramid.

GO!

## OPTION 2: Team of Ten (for smaller rooms or larger groups)

I need ten volunteers to come to the front to play a game representing growing in and building our faith.

The object of this game is to build a faith pyramid that stays up for 30 seconds.

One person will be the Bible Reader and read the Scripture aloud, helping us stay on track as we play the game. The Bible Reader will read the designated Scripture all the way through and then reread it, assigning each student a character trait to write on his/her cup.

The student assigned the first character trait will place his/her cup down as the base of the pyramid.

The student assigned the second character trait will place his/her cup next to the first cup, and so on until the pyramid is built.

One person will write each character trait on a cup as it is read aloud and hand it to each of the other team members one at a time.

The other team members will take the character cup as it's given to them and stack it into a pyramid on the floor.

Once the pyramid is built, count to 30 (one pyramid, two pyramids, three pyramids, etc.).

Leader, decide which student will be the Bible Reader and which student will write the character traits on each cup.

Hand the Bible Reader a Bible or have him/her open the Bible App and hand the character writer a sharpie marker and the stack of cups.

(Bible Reader), open your Bible to 2 Peter 1:5-9, but don't read it until I say, "Go!"

Remember, you will read this passage twice, one time all the way through, and then stopping to tell the writer which character traits to write.

If the cups slip down onto each other or the pyramid breaks, only the person who was given the character trait can touch his/her cup to fix or rebuild the pyramid.

GO!

Allow the students to complete the game and join the audience in cheering them on!

When the game is completed, have everyone take a seat.

# OPENING GAME

## (ONLINE VERSION): BUILDING ON YOUR FAITH

You have 5 minutes to find and bring back 8 items you can stack into a tower.

I suggest Jenga blocks, Lego blocks, couch pillows, large marshmallows, etc.

Allow students 5 minutes to collect their items.

The object of this game is to stack your items into a tower that stays up until all eight items are on top of each other, following my instructions.

I will read a passage of Scripture that talks about how to grow in your faith in Jesus.

As I read each character trait or belief, you will put down one stackable item on top of the others and try to get your tower to stay standing until all eight items are on the tower.

Leader, read 2 Peter 1:5-9:

In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises.

Supplement your faith (1st block)

with a generous provision of moral excellence (2nd block),

and moral excellence with knowledge (3rd block),

and knowledge with self-control (4th block),

and self-control with patient endurance (5th block),

and patient endurance with godliness (6th block), and

godliness with brotherly affection (7th block), and

brotherly affection with love (8th block) for everyone.

The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

Show the rest of us your tower!

You all did a great job!

Take a moment to put your tower items away and come back for our lesson time.

# TEACH

Say: Many students accept the seed of salvation God has planted in them and start growing roots by listening to others speak the Word of God by going to church and youth group, and then they stop there.

We are meant to multiply and grow spiritually.

We can only multiply (or bear fruit) when we are growing healthy and strong.

Trees that don't have the nutrient resources they need to be healthy are unable to bear good fruit.

The way we get healthy and strong in our faith is to ADD nutrients to it, so let's go through and discuss the passage we just used for our game.

"In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith..."

Followers of Jesus all begin with faith—that seed of salvation we learned about a couple of weeks ago.

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith this way, "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see."

We can't currently SEE our salvation, but we have faith that Jesus told the truth, has saved us, and is coming again to take us to live forever with Him.

Faith is our foundation, our main nutrient—like the entrée to our spiritual meal.

Then we are to supplement our faith “with a generous provision of moral excellence...”

What is moral excellence?

Allow for answers. (Doing what is right because it’s the right thing to do)

We supplement our faith with “moral excellence (and) with knowledge...”

How do we add knowledge to our faith?

Allow for answers. (Read the Bible, go to church and youth group, join a Bible study)

Once we know what our faith looks like lived out with moral excellence, we add “self-control...”

Self-control is a FRUIT of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:23, and so we are beginning to bear fruit, which is a sign we are growing spiritually.

When we can have self-control in an area in which we previously showed NO self-control, it’s a testimony that we are becoming more like Jesus.

One of the most obvious signs of self-control is having control over what we say—no longer using foul language, telling dirty jokes, or gossiping.

The more time you spend with someone, the more you begin to sound and look like that person.

(Good examples of this are when two students have been friends a long time and begin to finish each other's sentences.

Another example is how alike grandparents look after 50 years of marriage.)

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you will look, sound, and become like Him.

Becoming like Jesus is our goal because people will be drawn to Him through us!

When we have reached the goal of self-control, we add "patient endurance..."

Which of the following scenarios is an example of patient endurance?

- A non-Christian woman married a non-Christian man then became a follower of Jesus 5 years into their marriage. She prayed for her husband's salvation for 20 years before he made the decision to follow Jesus, too.
- A grandma prays morning and night for all her grandchildren to accept Jesus' gift of salvation.
- A sophomore boy has gone to church with his mom every Sunday of his life but goes home to his atheist father, who makes fun of him for wasting his Sunday mornings in church instead of sleeping in or hanging out with friends.

Allow for answers. (All of them.)

No doubt you have examples of patiently enduring people in your life that you can share during Small Group time.

The more we endure, the more we look like Jesus—which gives us “godliness,” literally becoming like God.

When we become like God, we have “brotherly affection,” which the New American Standard Bible phrases as “brotherly kindness.”

Kindness is another fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

Kindness is doing good out of the tenderness of your heart.

That means the Spirit of God is being kind through you, being affectionate and attentive, and serving others through you.

Last, we add “love for everyone,” not just those who have a mutual affection for (like) us.

Jesus says to His disciples in John 13:35, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Love sets us apart and draws others to us.

Love is self-sacrifice.

“Love is patient and kind,” according to 1 Corinthians 13:4a.

Love is also a fruit of the Spirit, so when we love others we are doing what God created us to do—multiply.

As we grow by nourishing our faith with things of God, we grow healthy and strong and begin to bear fruit for others to have the seeds of salvation.

The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. 2 Peter 1:8-9

Philippians 3:14-16 says,

“I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.”

Holding on to the progress we have made is patiently enduring!

Patience is calmly waiting without complaining.

It's not whining about not getting the same life someone else has or complaining that this spiritual growth process (also known as sanctification) is taking too long!

We PRESS ON and grow deep foundational roots, then grow healthy and strong so we become good examples to those we will be bearing fruit for!

As you grow deeper in your faith, you will grow up (mature) and become more like Christ.

Let's pray for each other and thank God for the resources He gives us to grow healthy and strong in our faith and that He's with us, coaching and guiding us all the time we are growing.

Close in prayer.

Leader, pray or have one of your volunteers or students pray to close, then break into small groups (or Zoom breakout rooms).

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that stood out to you from this lesson?
2. What is something new you learned today, or something you were reminded of about God in this lesson?
3. If we used 2 Peter 1:5-9 as a spiritual growth checklist of sorts, which of the character traits is your next step in growing in your faith and why?
  - a. Faith (taking the first step in accepting the seed of salvation)
  - b. Moral excellence (doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do)
  - c. Knowledge (growing in knowledge by reading the Bible and listening to others teach it)
  - d. Self-control
  - e. Patient endurance
  - f. Godliness (becoming more like Jesus)
  - g. Brotherly love/brotherly kindness/mutual love
  - h. Love for all (even those who aren't followers of Jesus)
4. What is hardest in growing deeper roots and why?
  - a. believing God loves me unconditionally
  - b. spending time in God's Word
  - c. spending time with other followers of Jesus
5. Who is someone in your life who is an example of patient endurance, and how does that person inspire you?
6. Why can it be hard to show love for other followers of Jesus (brotherly love)?

7. Why can it be hard to show love for all?

8. What gets in the way of you growing healthy and strong spiritually?

9. Please share any questions or concerns about what we learned today.

10. How can we pray for you today?