



# The Planted Seed

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Scope and Sequence	Core Essentials – Salvation
Lesson Objective	Students will learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and will be invited to trust Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
Sticky Statement	<b>The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.</b>
Key Verses	Ephesians 2:8-9
Definitions	<p><b>Gospel:</b> <i>“the Good News of God’s salvation of mankind made possible by Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection”</i></p> <p><b>Faith:</b> <i>“trusting, believing, or taking God at His Word; having a confident assurance of unseen things”</i></p> <p><b>Grace:</b> <i>“undeserved and unmerited favor”</i></p> <p><b>Salvation:</b> <i>“deliverance from the power and effects of sin through the person and work of Jesus Christ”</i></p>
Checklist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A PowerPoint is available for this lesson.</li><li>2. A Student Notes page is available for this lesson.</li><li>3. A seed (Hook and Connection)</li><li>4. Video: “I Could Watch Time Lapses Of Seeds Growing All Day” <a href="https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-3/">https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-3/</a> (Hook)</li><li>5. A small, wrapped gift (Lesson Content)</li><li>6. Optional: The receipt for the wrapped gift (Lesson Content)</li><li>7. A seed (One for each student) (Next Steps)</li></ol>

## LESSON OVERVIEW

**Gospel:** “the Good News of God’s salvation of mankind made possible by Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection”

I. How Does the **Seed** of the Gospel Take Root? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**Faith:** “trusting, believing, or taking God at His Word; having a confident assurance of unseen things”

**Salvation:** “deliverance from the power and effects of sin through the person and work of Jesus Christ”

**Grace:** “undeserved and unmerited favor”

II. Why Do We Need To Be **Saved**? (Romans 3:23; 6:23a)

a. Because we have **sinned** (Romans 3:23)

b. Because the **payment** for sin is death (Romans 6:23a)

III. How Can We Be **Saved**? (Romans 6:23b; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

**The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.**

## GENERAL LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

**Teacher’s Note:** *To teach this lesson as written, you will need to have a seed of some type to use as a visual aid. In addition to the single seed for your use, the Next Steps section of the lesson calls for each student to be given a seed of some type to take home with them. Prior to teaching this lesson, be sure to purchase some type of seeds that can be passed out easily to each person in attendance.*

*During the Lesson Content section of the lesson, you will be offering a small gift to someone in the audience. Be sure to give something that the students would want and take the time to wrap it up so it looks like a present. The lesson is written as if the gift was a candy bar of some sort; adjust the lesson as needed to fit the gift you choose to give. To make the illustration more memorable, it would be good to have the receipt from the purchase of the gift so you can refer to the actual cost of the gift.*

## HOOK

**Teacher’s Note:** *The Hook section of the lesson utilizes a game called “What’s That Seed?” Before playing the game, divide your group into two teams. In this PowerPoint game, the students will be shown pictures of a specific seed and will be given the chance to guess what type of seed it is. The first person who stands and correctly identifies the seed will win the points for their team.*

*As a way to keep the game from becoming a mere “guessing game,” the process of deducting points for any incorrect answers has been added to the game. Feel free to remove this part of the game if it is too complicated. See the Hook Section of the lesson for the specifics on how to play the game.*

Today we are beginning a new series called *Roots: Growing Your Faith*. The four lessons in this series focus on ways that we can grow in our faith in God. This first lesson will specifically discuss the **beginning** of the spiritual growth process. Since we are going to talk about **growth**, let's take a moment to think about a vegetable garden.

If you wanted to start a vegetable garden, you would need to have **a plot of dirt** that was exposed to sunlight to grow those vegetables, wouldn't you? You would need a **water** source, and if you really want to grow healthy plants, it would be best to get some **fertilizer** for the vegetables. Yes, to grow plants you need sunlight, soil, and water; to increase the growth, you can use fertilizer.

But, what else do you need? We haven't even mentioned the most important thing that is needed to grow vegetables in a garden. Can anyone guess what is the most important thing needed to grow vegetables? *[Wait for a response. Answer: Seeds.]* Yes, you need the seeds.

A small and seemingly insignificant seed is **the most important thing**. All plant life—trees, vegetables, and even weeds—starts with a seed.

*[Hold up a seed for the students to see.]* Here is a tiny seed. It seems like such an insignificant thing. It fits in the palm of your hand, and you could easily lose it if you're not careful. Yet this seed, if planted and nurtured, can grow into a *[Insert the name of whatever plant that seed would produce.]*

Since we are talking about seeds, we are going to play a quick PowerPoint game. The name of the game is "What's That Seed?" *[Show the PowerPoint slide of the game title.]* Here is how it will work. Everyone on this side of the room *[Point to the right side of the room.]* will be Team #1. Everyone on this side of the room *[Point to the left side of the room.]* will be Team #2.

We are going to show you pictures of the various seeds; it could be any type of seed: a flax seed, poppy seed, sesame seed, etc., but each of the pictures will be zoomed in at different levels. The goal is to guess what kind of seed you are seeing.

The first time the picture is shown, it will be zoomed in tightly on the seed and will, most likely, be difficult for most of you to recognize. If, after the first picture is shown you **do** recognize it, stand up. If you are first to stand and correctly identify the seed, your team will be awarded 10,000 points. But be careful, if you are wrong, you will lose 10,000 points.

If no one can correctly identify the seed after seeing the first picture, a second picture will be shown that will show the same seed, but not zoomed in as tightly. If you recognize the seed in the second picture, stand up. If you are first to stand and correctly identify the seed, your team will be awarded 5,000 points. But be careful, if you are wrong, you will lose 5,000 points.

If no one can correctly identify the seed, a third picture will be shown but with a little more of the seed showing. If you are first to stand after this picture and correctly identify the seed, your team will be awarded 3,000 points; if you are wrong, you will lose 3,000 points.

If no one can correctly identify the seed, a final picture will be shown that will reveal the seed but no points will be awarded.

Be careful not to yell out the answer. If you are **not** recognized as the first person standing, you may just give the answer to another person. Does all that make sense? *[Answer any questions then begin the game by showing the first picture of the **sunflower seed**.]*

Here is the first picture; does anyone know what kind of seed this is?

**Teacher's Note:** *Recognize the first person standing and allow them to answer. If they are correct, award 10,000 points. If they are incorrect, deduct 10,000 points and allow the other team a chance to respond.*

*If no one answers correctly, show the second picture of the sunflower seed and recognize the first person to stand. Award 5,000 points for a correct answer or deduct points for an incorrect answer; once again allowing the other team a chance to respond if the first answer to picture #2 was incorrect.*

*If no one answers correctly again, show the third picture of the sunflower seed. Award 3,000 points for a correct answer or deduct points for an incorrect answer; once again allowing the other team a chance to respond if the first answer to picture #3 was incorrect.*

*If no one answers correctly, show the final picture and identify the seed, but award no points.*

*Repeat this process with the pictures of the **acorn**, the **apple seed**, and the **watermelon seed**. If there happens to be a tie, use the pictures of the **pumpkin seed** to break the tie. Be sure to congratulate the winning team.*

Thanks for playing along with our little game. It is amazing what can grow from a simple seed.

- Take an acorn for instance. An acorn starts off rather small, yet can grow, on average, into a tree towering between 40 and 80 feet tall.
- We didn't show you one in our game but think about a tomato seed. A tomato plant starts off as a very small seed, but then grows into a plant that can produce anywhere between 20-90 tomatoes on that one plant alone, depending upon the type of tomato.
- How many of you have ever heard Jesus' reference to the mustard seed? The mustard seed is a real seed. In comparison to its size, the plant it produces is huge.

The small seed is the most important thing when trying to grow a plant; the plant that grows depends on the kind of seed you started with. If you are trying to grow jalapeño peppers, you are not going to grab a bag of watermelon seeds. If you want to grow roses, you are not going to grab sunflower seeds to plant. The seed determines what is grown.

How many of you have ever watched the process of a seed growing in the ground? *[Allow time for a response.]* How many of you, when you were in elementary school, were sent home with a bean wrapped in a wet paper towel so you could plant it and watch it grow? Anyone? *[Allow for a show of hands.]* The process is quite amazing. For all of you who didn't get that experience, we have a quick video for you to watch that shows a time-lapse of a seed growing. Take a look.

**Teacher's Note:** *Play the video: "I Could Watch Time Lapses of Seeds Growing All Day" video: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-3/>.*

*If you do not have the ability to play videos or choose not to show the video, explain the process of a seed sprouting into a plant, flower, tree, etc. You could say something like this.*

*"Take a kidney bean, for example. It all starts with a seed being planted in soil. During the first 24 hours, a kidney bean will begin to open very slowly. Within the first week, roots will be shooting different directions in the soil but mainly downward. Somewhere around day 8, the shoots will come out of the soil and begin to grow upward at the same time as the roots continue to spread in the soil. Around day 10, this shoot fully emerges out of the soil and may have even grown a leaf.*

*From this point on, the plant continues to grow larger, both under the soil and on top of the soil for all to see.”*

*If you choose not to use the video, skip the next paragraph, and begin teaching again with the paragraph that begins with the words “If you don’t have the seed.”*

It was pretty amazing to see the roots shoot through the soil and then the bean sprouting above the surface, wasn’t it? What is even more amazing is the fact that every one of the plants started with a simple seed. In that tiny seed there was life; without the seed you cannot have life.

If you don’t have the seed, all you have is air, water, and soil. You can have the nicest place to grow a garden, but without seeds you will just have a good piece of property. In the same way, our lives are often full of activities and events that seem like they would bring us life, but in reality, we are often left still searching for life.

For instance, we work hard to get better in a sport, or we study more to raise our GPA, thinking, “If I could just do better, my parents would be more proud of me.” Maybe we think that it will help our popularity or help us gain new or more friends. What really happens is we spend all of our extra time trying to be better only to find that, at the end of the day, we are still searching for life, real life.

Today we will focus on where life, real life (i.e., spiritual life), starts. In the same way that a tree or plant cannot grow without a seed, none of us can grow in our spiritual life if the life-giving seed of the Gospel has not first taken root in our hearts. The seed of the Gospel is the most important thing; it starts with the seed. *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the Sticky Statement.]* **The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.**

## LESSON CONTENT

So, what is the Gospel? *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the definition of the word “Gospel.”]* The “Gospel” is *“the Good News of God’s salvation of mankind made possible by Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.”* *[Repeat the definition, if desired.]* We are going to look at the seed of the Gospel by answering three questions.

- How does the seed of the Gospel take root?
- Why do we need to be saved?
- How can we be saved?

Let’s begin with the first question. *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the first point of the outline and read it to the students.]*

### I. How Does the Seed of the Gospel Take Root? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Listen to what Ephesians 2:8 tells us and see if you can figure out how it takes root. *[Read Ephesians 2:8.]* According to this verse, the Apostle Paul tells us that the only way we can be saved is through what? *[Allow time for the students to respond. Answer: faith.]* The seed of the Gospel takes root through faith. *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the definition of the word “faith.”]* “Faith” means *“trusting, believing, or taking God at His Word; having a confident assurance of unseen things.”*

All of you expressed a kind of faith when you came into the room and sat down in the chair that you are sitting in right now. You believed, at some level, that the chair you chose was **not** going to fall apart when you sat down. There was no one who came in here today and got down on their knees to check their seat for structural integrity. No one brought your own chair with you because you didn't trust the chairs we have here. No, you simply put your trust (your faith) in the chair that you are sitting in and believed that it would hold you up.

In this verse, faith is connected to **salvation**, which is connected to grace. *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the definition of the word "salvation.]"* "Salvation" is "deliverance from the power and effects of sin through the person and work of Jesus Christ."

The Apostle Paul says that salvation is only by God's **grace**. *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the definition of the word "grace.]"* "Grace" is "undeserved and unmerited favor."

That was a lot of definitions all at once, so let's take time to review. In Ephesians 2:8 we read, "For by grace you have been saved through faith." Or, in other words,

"It was only because of the **undeserved favor** of God that you were **delivered from the power and effects of sin** as a result of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and you received this undeserved favor because of your **belief** in God to save you."

That's right, it is by **grace** (undeserved favor) you have been **saved** (delivered from the power and effects of sin) through **faith** (trusting, believing, and taking God at His Word).

This means that salvation is not something that we deserve or can earn. But some of you may still be asking,

- "Isn't there something that I need **to do** to be saved?"
- "I have grown up in a family that loves Jesus and makes me come to church; doesn't that save me?"
- "Doesn't doing nice things for others save me?"
- "If I give money to the church, doesn't that do something for me?"

The Apostle Paul removed any doubt that salvation is only by grace through faith with what he wrote in the very next verse. Listen to Ephesians 2:9. *[Read Ephesians 2:9.]*

That was about as clear as he could make it; salvation is **not** the result of works. Meaning that salvation has **nothing** to do with what we can do or offer to God. We cannot work our way to God. The seed of the Gospel takes root through **faith**. **The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.**

So, someone yell it out, How does the seed of the Gospel take root? *[Allow for a response. Answer: By faith.]* That's right, by faith and only because God is gracious to us!

Now that we have answered our first question, the second question we will look at is why? *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the second point of the outline and read it to the students.]*

## II. Why Do We Need To Be **Saved**? (Romans 3:23; 6:23a)

To answer this question, we are going to turn in our Bibles to the Book of Romans. Let's start in Romans chapter 3. *[Read Romans 3:23.]* Who does the Apostle Paul say has sinned? *[Allow the students to respond.]* **All** have sinned. Does **all** exclude anyone? *[Allow the students to respond.]* No; all means all. "All have sinned."

But our second question was “Why do we need to be saved?” Well, we all need to be saved... *[Show the next sub-point of the outline on the PowerPoint slide and read it to the students.]*

a. Because we have **sinned**. (Romans 3:23)

Or, to be a little more blunt, because we are all **sinner**s. Sin is anything that you think, say, or do that goes against God or His Word.

- When you **think** about hurting your sibling because they got you in trouble, that is sin.
- When you fly off the handle and **yell** at your parents for any reason, that is sin.
- When you **cheat** on a test in order to get a passing grade, that is sin.

The word “sin” means to “miss the mark or to fall short.” Sin is missing the target, and the target is God’s **perfect standard**; we all fall short of perfect, don’t we?

Some may ask, if all have sinned, then why does it matter if we sin? This is another great question. The Apostle Paul answered this question for us. Turn in your Bibles to Romans 6 verse 23. *[Read Romans 6:23a.]* Did you hear that? The wages, or payment, of sin is death.

How many of you have a job or get paid to do chores at your house? *[Allow the students to respond.]* Whether you go to work or work at your home, after you complete your hours or specific job, what happens? *[Allow the students to respond.]* You get paid for what you did. The payment for the work you did was money.

According to this verse, our payment for sinning is what? *[Allow the students to respond.]* Death! So, what is another reason we need to be saved? We need to be saved... *[Show the next sub-point of the outline on the PowerPoint slide and read it to the students.]*

b. Because the **payment** for sin is death. (Romans 6:23a)

This isn’t just talking about a death that we will all experience one day, death from our present world. The type of death that the Apostle Paul is talking about is a spiritual death; he is referring to being separated from God in a real place called Hell. Let that sink in for just a moment.

Our sin separates us from God, and, if nothing changes, we will remain spiritually dead, forever separated from God! No more grace. No more mercy. This is the problem that all of humanity has; this is **why** we need to be saved!

Earlier we learned that we could do nothing to fix this problem of sin; remember, salvation is “not of works” (Ephesians 2:9). That is why the seed of the Gospel is the most important thing. You are a sinner, your sin requires a death payment, and there is nothing you can do to pay it. If we stopped right there and said, “Hope you have a great week,” this would be the most depressing day ever. But...

That three-letter word, “but,” brings such excitement to the pages of God’s Word. God does not just leave you to fend for yourself in your sin problem. The little word “but” helps us answer our third question. *[Show the PowerPoint slide with the third point of the outline and read it to the students.]*

III. How Can We Be **Saved**? (Romans 6:23b; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Let’s finish reading Romans 6:23. Do you remember the first part of that verse? “For the wages of sin is death,” then comes that fantastic three-letter word, “but.” Now listen to the rest of the verse. *[Read Romans 6:23b.]*

Instead of death, what does the Apostle Paul say God is offering to us? *[Allow the students to respond.]* We are offered a **gift** from God.

Can you think of another place in Scripture that talks about God giving us a gift? *[Allow the students to respond.]* John 3:16 tells us that God **gave**. Could someone quote or read John 3:16 for us, please? *[Allow time for John 3:16 to be quoted or read by a student.]*

How many of you enjoy receiving gifts? *[Hold your wrapped gift up so the students can see it and allow for a show of hands.]* Is there anyone here today that would like to receive a gift? *[Wait for a response.]* Well, whoever is willing to come take my gift can have it. *[Stand there holding the gift out until someone comes and takes the gift.]*

**Teacher's Note:** *Since you only have one gift to give, you might want to remind the students that this is simply an illustration of salvation being a **gift** specifically. Salvation is a gift that is available for **all**, but you only had one gift to use for the illustration. With salvation, **everyone** could receive it.*

*[Address the student who took the gift.]* Open it; let's see what you got. *[Wait for them to open the gift.]* Now, go ahead and open that up and take a bite. *[Wait to see if they take a bite, but if they take a bite or not, continue with the following content.]*

Now, I know **I said** that this was a gift, but I am going to need you to give me *[Pull out the receipt from the purchase of the gift and say the amount that you paid for the gift.]* to cover the cost of the candy plus the tax. *[Wait for a response.]* Just kidding! If you had to pay for this, would it still be a gift? *[Allow for a response. Answer: Of course not!]*

*[Address the audience.]* How many of you have ever been given a gift and then promptly asked to pay for that gift? *[Wait for response.]* If you have, you didn't get a gift, did you? *[Tell the volunteer that they can return to their seat with the gift, free of charge.]* A gift is free for the person **receiving** the gift; that is the very definition of a gift.

But have you ever thought about the person **giving** the gift? It wasn't free for them, was it? They had to pay something to give you the gift, didn't they? The cost of the gift we gave away today was *[Insert the amount that you paid for the gift.]*

In a similar way, the gift that God is giving to us was not free for Him. God's gift to us actually cost Him the life of His Son, Jesus Christ. Listen to what Romans 5:8 tells us. *[Read Romans 5:8.]* Remember, sin has a payment; the payment for sin is death. God sent Jesus into this world to pay for our sin.

How is that even possible, you might ask? How did Jesus pay the price for our sin? Well, He could pay for all sin because He was sinless. He came into the world as a human being but never sinned once because in Him was no sin. But, then He did something amazing!

The Apostle Paul said it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:21. *[Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.]* Jesus took your sin and my sin to the cross and paid for it with His death.

- Jesus was humiliated, beaten (Luke 22:63-65), and nailed to a cross (Luke 23:32-33).
- On that cross, Jesus took his final breath and died (Luke 23:44-46).
- His body was taken off the cross and laid in an empty tomb (Luke 23:50-54).
- The devil thought that he had won the fight, but according to Scripture, three days after Jesus died, He came back to life (Luke 9:22, 24:1-7).
- Rising from the dead, Jesus proved that He had power over death and sin. Because He took our sins to the cross, we now can have a personal relationship with God.

## CONNECTION

And that is how all of this connects to your life. You can have a personal relationship with God because of what Jesus did for you. Jesus paid the penalty for sin when He died on the cross, and He defeated death and sin when He rose from the dead. It is up to you to believe in Him.

Let's take a second to review; here is what we have learned.

- We **need** to be saved because we are all sinners and the payment for our sin is death.
- We **can** be saved because when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He made the payment for our sin.
- It is only by **faith** in Jesus Christ that the seed of the Gospel can be planted in your heart and take root. **The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.** So, if we will **believe** in Jesus as Savior, we can have our sin forgiven and have a relationship with God.

So, let's make it personal. Listen to the directions we can find in Romans 10:9-10. [*Read Romans 10:9-10.*] The Word of God tells us that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. Saved from what? Saved from our sin and saved from death in Hell.

When we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, we are simply telling God what we already believe in our hearts. You see, salvation comes by nothing more than believing that Jesus died for your sin and rose from the dead. This is why Paul said in Ephesians 2:8, it is by grace through **faith** that you have been saved.

The God of the universe, the One who spoke everything into existence and then formed mankind from the dirt, loves you and desires to have a personal relationship with you. He was the One Who made it possible for you to have that relationship. But the choice is yours; God is not going to make you choose Him. He lovingly offers you the gift of eternal life, and anyone who calls on Jesus will be saved (Romans 10:13).

[*Hold up the seed again.*] This seed is so small, yet it is the most important thing in order for a plant to have life. The Gospel is so simple, and today you have a choice as to what you will do with this seed of the Gospel. During this lesson, the seed of the Gospel has been sown, but it will only take root by faith. **The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.**

This life-giving seed has the power to change your life, not only for all of eternity, but also right now. Jesus said that He came to give us life but not just any kind of life, He came to give us **abundant** life (John 10:10). The life that God is offering is an eternal life that starts right now and lasts forever.

This doesn't mean that you will never have difficult times again in your life, but it does mean that you will never have to go through those difficult times alone because God is with you giving you life through any circumstance. But you have to decide whether you believe or you don't. God is the only One Who can truly give us a life worth living, and that life only comes through receiving the life-giving seed of the Gospel, trusting Jesus as Savior.

So, will you trust and believe in Jesus today? Will you allow the seed of the Gospel to take root in your heart? Do you believe that God sent Jesus to this world to pay for your sin on the cross? Do you believe that Jesus died for you and rose again? If so, will you trust Jesus as Savior today?

## CHOICE

No one can make this decision for you. The choice is yours. If you believe in Jesus and are willing to trust Christ alone for your salvation, you are invited to talk to God in just a moment.

But first, here are a few questions to consider.

- Do you believe that you are a **sinner** who cannot pay the penalty of your sin and are destined to be separated from God for all eternity?
- Do you believe that Jesus came to this world, died on a cross, and rose from the dead so He could provide salvation, not only for mankind, but for you specifically?
- Are you willing to ask God to save you from eternal separation from Him?

If everyone would bow your heads and close your eyes. There are only two people that truly know whether or not you have put your trust in God: you and God. Maybe right now, you would say, I know I do **not** have a relationship with God, but I would like to. I believe that Jesus did what Scripture says He did. In the best way that I know how, I am putting my trust in God.

If that is you today, if you are saying, “Yes, I believe,” I am going to walk you through a simple prayer to express that to God. Prayer is simply how we talk to God. A prayer is not what saves you. Praying to God is saying with your mouth what your heart already believes. Remember, with the heart we believe, and with the mouth we confess (Romans 10:9).

If, right now, you are putting your trust in God and believing in Jesus, you could say something like this.

“Dear God, I admit I am a sinner.” *[Pause.]*

“I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sin.” *[Pause.]*

“I believe He was buried and rose again.” *[Pause.]*

“I am trusting You to save me from my sins.” *[Pause.]*

“Thank You for forgiving my sins.” *[Pause.]*

**Teacher’s Note:** *It would be wise to walk through the prayer a second time. You could say this. “I am going to walk through that same prayer one more time. So, maybe you didn’t pray just then, but you would like to put your trust in God and believe in Jesus for the first time. If so, say something like this.” Then repeat the above prayer.*

Keep your heads bowed and your eyes closed just for a few more minutes. I am going to ask you to do something bold. If you just put your faith in Christ alone, would you raise your hand? Nobody should be looking around, just slip your hand up. *[Pray for those who raised their hands and pray for those who already have a relationship with God.]*

Everyone go ahead and look back up here. If you just trusted God by putting your faith in Christ, we would love to talk with you one-on-one. When you get to your small group in a few moments, say something to the small group leader or tell someone else. Whatever you do, tell **someone** that you put your trust in Christ today.

## NEXT STEPS

No matter if you trusted Jesus as Savior a few minutes ago or if you have been saved for a long time, the challenge for everyone this week is to sow the seed of the Gospel. The seed of the Gospel is spread when you share the Gospel with others.

The seed of the Gospel was the start of **your** spiritual life. You are a witness of how the seed of the Gospel has given you life. Sharing that Good News with others is how we sow the seed of the Gospel.

You can refer to sharing the Gospel as The Great Cause. The people in your circle of influence are those who need to hear the truth of the Gospel. So, we can refer to those people as the people in your Cause Circle. So, find someone in your Cause Circle this week and begin sowing the seed of the Gospel. Share that seed with others so they, too, can find life in Jesus Christ.

As a way to remind you to sow the seed of the Gospel, you are going to be given a seed. Let this tiny seed remind you that the Gospel is like a seed that you can plant by sharing it with others.

Remember, **the seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life**. Will you sow that seed this week?

**Teacher's Note:** *As everyone leaves to go home or to their small group, have several people volunteer to give a seed to each person.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What was something that you learned about seeds today?** *(This question is simply just to start the conversation. Let the students share what they learned about seeds. Be ready to share something that you learned. For example, without a seed you can't have plants/vegetables/trees, acorns can grow into a tree that is over 60 feet tall, time-lapse video, etc.)*
- 2. Why do you think the Gospel was compared to a seed in this lesson?** *(Help the students see that faith starts with the seed of the Gospel being sown, planted, and then taking root in someone's heart. This is where our faith journey begins, with the Gospel. Faith is not possible without the Gospel seed; salvation is not possible without faith. The seed of the Gospel is the start of spiritual life.)*
- 3. Who is one person in your Cause Circle that you need to share the Gospel with?** *(If students do not have a Cause Circle, simply have them come up with the name of one person that they will begin to pray for to be saved by the Gospel. Then help them to see that there are people all around them that need to hear the Gospel message. If your students are not familiar with the Life in Six Words app from Dare2Share, introduce them to the app so they can download it and keep track of their Cause Circle.)*

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## Resources and References

1. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament (Victor Books: Wheaton, IL), 1985.
2. Everything You Need to Know About Oak Trees: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-1/>
3. Tomato Yields: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-2/>
4. Blue Letter Bible: <https://www.blueletterbible.org>
5. "I Could Watch Time Lapses Of Seeds Growing All Day" <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-3/>
6. THE Cause Circle: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS24/1-4/>

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