

EVERGREEN SPROUTS



THE SALVATION ARMY USA EAST ARTS MINISTRIES BUREAU

STORYTELLERS

THE STORY OF GROWTH

OVERVIEW

THE “STORYTELLERS” SERIES

This series invites our smallest school-aged creatives into the beautifully illustrated world of parables. Little Sprouts will discover valuable truths from Jesus’ allegorical teachings and place themselves directly in the story, acting out the characters through basic movement and tableaux. Sprouts will dig into Jesus’ moral truths through discussion, reflection, prayer, and empathy development.

AGE

5-6 years old
(K-1st grade)

TIME

30 min-1 hr

PARTICIPANTS

Minimum of 5

Evergreen Volume 03
STORYTELLERS

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THE STORY OF GROWTH

Matthew 13: 1-23

2 classes

5+
participants

This story can be explored over two classes, with different activities and discussion questions to keep your Sprouts engaged, but the *story time* is the same for both classes.

This will also give your Sprouts enough time to understand the parable and memorize the memory verse and the actions that go along with the story.

CHECK-IN

CLASS 1

1. As each Sprout enters the room, measure with your hand on the door frame how tall they are. See who is the tallest. Then, invite them to sit in a circle.
2. Go around the circle and ask them to share what kinds of things they used to do when they were younger but don't do anymore now that they're older.

CLASS 2

1. As each Sprout enters the room, measure them with your hand on the door frame and ask them if they think they grew this week. Then, invite them to sit in a circle.
2. Go around the circle and ask them how else they may have grown this week, not just physically.

MEMORY VERSE

Repeat three times:

"... People who have grown to be spiritually mature in Christ."

Colossians 1:28

MOVEMENT SKILL: CHASSÉ

[sha-sey] to chase (French)

Practice all together, then try to chassé one at a time across the floor.



1. Keeping hands on hips, face the front and step out sideways in a wide stance and bear weight into your right foot. Say "step" as your right foot hits the floor. Bearing down into your right foot, propel your body upward into the air in one fluid motion. As you're in the air, bring your left foot to meet your right foot with toes pointed. Then say "together" when the left foot joins the right. As you descend to the floor, allow your left foot to land softly beneath you and position your right foot outwards to the side in a wide stance again. Imagine you are galloping across the floor with this exercise. Repeat the chassé over and over, speaking as you go across the floor, "Step, together, step, together, step, together." Then, repeat on the left.

2. Once your Sprouts feel comfortable, try chassés with:

- Arms in a "V" in the air
- Hands on shoulders
- Hands out to the sides

CIRCLE DISCUSSION

Sitting in a circle, discuss:

CLASS 1

1. Who has learned about plants or seen a plant grow at home or at school?
2. What kinds of things do plants need in order to grow?

CLASS 2

1. Are any of you taller than you were last year?
2. What do you need to help you grow?
3. What about your mind? What should you do to help your mind grow?
4. What would happen if you didn't go to school, sleep, or eat healthy food?

STORY TIME

Leader reads the script while participants act out the story. Take your time teaching the actions, repeating and reviewing as your Sprouts need. The goal is to perform this piece in its entirety.

This would be a great presentation piece for parents during a Sunday Meeting!

CAST LIST

Before you get started, select **four** Sprouts to play the following roles, listed in order of the amount the character is featured:

Farmer

The God figure; gender inclusive.
A Sprout who can chassé well.

Seeds

All cast.

Birds

About half of the cast will be a Bird momentarily.

Weeds

The remaining Sprouts who were not cast as Birds.

Sun

Opening position located far stage left.

STORY TIME

Play instrumental music in the background.

LEADER PROMPTS

SPROUTS' ACTIONS

Jesus told this story...



Action: All jump up to a standing position, cupping a right hand over their right ear as if listening intently.

A farmer went out to plant some seeds.



Action: The Farmer chassés all around the cast, weaving in and around each Sprout that is standing and listening. They make throwing gestures around the space.

Some of it fell by the road.



Action: The Farmer mimes throwing seeds. All of the Seeds (*the cast*) quickly drop to the ground and curl up into little balls like seeds.

But uh-oh!



Action: Birds jump up from their Seed positions and chassé with arms out to the sides (*like wings*) across the floor towards a Seed of their choosing.

The birds ate all that seed up!

Action: Birds mime nibbling away at the seed, pretending their arms and hands are beaks.

Tip: Instruct Sprouts to straighten both of their arms out in front of them, with palms touching, to create the illusion of beaks.

The Farmer continued to plant seeds.



Action: The Farmer chassés to the other side of the playing space, then mimes a large throwing gesture with their arms to indicate they are planting seeds.

But some of the seeds fell on the rocky ground.

Action: All Seeds make wriggling motions as if they're starting to sprout and grow.

The seeds grew very fast there because the soil was not very deep.



Action: All Seeds jump up and stand on their tippy-toes, with their arms high above their heads.

But when the sun rose, it burned up all of the plants.



Action: The Sun makes a circle with their arms above their head. Bending at the torso, they lean towards the left and then to the right, as if the sun were rising and setting.

Tip: The Sun should extend their arms high above their head so the audience can see them as the Seeds continue performing.

The plants died because they did not have deep roots.



Action: Seeds react by burning and shrinking back to their original seed form.

Tip: Sun joins the Seeds again after a beat.

The Farmer continued to plant seeds.



Action: The Farmer chassés across the floor again, then mimes a large throwing gesture with their arms to indicate they are planting seeds.

Some of the seeds fell
among thorny weeds.



Action: Weeds and Seeds grow up quickly to a standing position. The Weeds make claws with their hands, fingers spread apart, to look menacing.

The weeds grew up with
the seeds...

Action: Weeds find the nearest seed to them and give them a big (*but gentle*) hug, carefully weighing them down.

Tip: Before instructing this next action, make sure to ask your Sprouts if they are comfortable being touched.

But stopped the good plants
from growing.

Action: Seeds crumble back down to the ground in their original seed position.

The Farmer continued to
plant seeds.



Action: The Farmer chassés across the floor one last time, making a large throwing gesture with their arms to indicate they are planting seeds.

And some of the seeds fell
on good ground!

Action: All Seeds wriggle happily as if they're starting to sprout and grow.

There, they grew...

Action: All Seeds (*the Farmer included*) sprout up to a standing position.

...And grew!



Action: Everyone in the cast extends their arms outward, making a V-shape with their bodies.

...And grew!

Action: All Seeds are now plants and chassé around the playing space.

Tip: Instruct your Sprouts to be mindful of their playing space as they chassé around so they don't bump into one another.

They made so many beautiful plants and yummy food for the people to eat.

Action: Chassé all together center stage to make a clump and reveal a large, beautiful plant tableau.

Tip: Use their arms and create levels with their bodies to make a beautiful final pose of a giant plant with many branches.

Jesus wants us to remember
to be...

Action: Everyone in the cast
says out loud, "People who have
grown up to be spiritually
mature in Christ."

REFLECTION

Sitting in a circle, ask:

CLASS 1

What happened to the seeds that we learned about? Some seeds fell by the road and were eaten by the birds; some seeds fell on rocky ground and were burned by the sun; some seeds fell among thorny weeds and couldn't grow; and some seeds fell on good ground and grew. Which seed do you think Jesus wants you to be?

CLASS 2

The seed that grew listened to God, learned more about God, and told others about how great God is. Can you tell me some other ways we can grow our minds like "big, growing kids" and create a good relationship with God?

COOL-DOWN STRETCH



1. Plant both feet firmly in the ground, about hip-width apart. Stand up nice and tall and extend your right arm directly above your head. Reach your right arm over to your left side to lengthen and stretch the right side of your body. Then switch sides and repeat. Have the group count to 10 out loud on each side.



2. In a tall seated position, open legs wide (*in a straddle*) and reach your arms overhead with a flat back. Then fold over yourself from the hips and place your hands on the ground if able. For a deeper stretch, lower your chest to the floor and rest your arms on the ground. Reach out in front of you as far as you can stretch while maintaining a flat back. Hold in silence for 10 seconds, asking the Lord to speak to their hearts.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, I want to be like the good soil and continue to grow! Help me to think of you often, listen well, and follow your words to know what's right. Amen.

CHECK-OUT

CLASS 1

As each Sprout leaves the room, measure each of them on the door frame and pretend they've grown during the class time!

CLASS 2

As each Sprout leaves the room, ask them to show you on the door frame how tall they will be in a year.



EVERGREEN

GROWING SPIRITUAL, PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY ROOTS THROUGH THE ARTS

Produced by the Arts Ministries Bureau, Evergreen is a compilation of series designed for specific age groups, each with a unique biblical and artistic focus. Developed to equip and empower officers/volunteers to produce quality arts programming at their corps, this series will require no special training and minimal preparation from Evergreen instructors. Lessons range from 45 minutes to one hour each, and are free to use throughout the territory. Arts Ministries hopes that Evergreen will create a positive crossover between corps Sunday attendance and after-school programs, preparing young artists for divisional dance/drama teams, Star Search and beyond! With a new series added every year, Evergreen will continue to grow and branch out to reflect the needs and interests of budding creatives throughout the territory.

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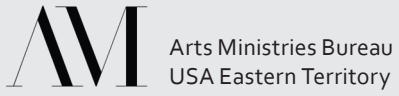
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