

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 16. **BEGINNINGS**

- Purpose:
- a) To teach the child that all living things need certain things to grow.
 - b) To teach that these things are provided by God.
 - c) To teach that things can grow, even before they are seen.
 - d) Indirectly, to prepare the way for the concept of “being born again.”

Materials: The gift boxes described in “The Best Gifts” lesson. (See page 13).

Some seeds

Dirt

Plastic see-through cups (one per child)

A watering can with water in it.

A small plant

- Presentation:
- 1) Tell the children that living things grow, even before we can see them.
 - 2) Take one of the seeds and plant it. Take another seed and show the children how to plant it so that the seed is next to the edge of the cup (and can be seen while it is growing).
 - 3) Explain that we are doing this so that we can see what is happening to the first seed...that we will be seeing something that we, normally don't see.
 - 4) Ask the child what the seed needs to grow (earth, water, and sunlight). Remind the children that God made the things that the seed needs before He made the seeds.
 - 5) Explain that the seed will start to grow even before we see it “peek” through the ground.
 - 6) Ask the children if any of their mommies are pregnant (or if any of their mommies have a baby growing inside of them). If not, maybe they know someone is pregnant.
 - 7) Explain that even though it looks as if the mommy is growing bigger, it's actually the baby inside who is growing. (At least it was pleasant to think when I was pregnant!)

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- 8) Tell them that the baby is hidden for awhile while it grows...just like the seed...or like a hug.
- 9) When the baby gets big enough, it will be born, or “come into the light.” Then we can see it.
- 10) Tell them that a baby is born just like a hug is “born.”
- 11) Each is a gift that grows inside, where we can't see it.
- 12) Each is fed by God. (After all, we don't fix bottles for the baby yet.)
- 13) And each grows until it gets so big that we can't keep it inside anymore, and is, then, “brought into the light.”
- 14) Open up one of the gift boxes (e.g., “sharing”) and tell the children that “sharing” grows inside of us before it is “born.”
- 15) Tell the children that “love” makes sharing grow, just like water, earth, and sunshine makes the seed grow.
- 16) Open another box (e.g., “kindness”) and repeat the explanation.
- 17) Open another box and see if the children can guess that love makes each thing grow.
- 18) Tell the children that God gives us love for these things to grow, just like He gives the seed the things that it needs to grow.
- 19) Tell them that all of these gifts are hidden for awhile, until they are ready to be born.

Activities: Have the children plant the seeds so that next week we can check their growth.

Play Hide and Seek with a small plant.

Song: **Seek and Ye Shall Find**