



ROOTED

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *What did you look like as a baby?*
- Interactive Game: Transformation Challenge
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Growing Deep Roots
- Blessing Your Kids

ROOTED LESSON 2

NAC USA
Goals and Objectives
[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21, 23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)
[ID 2, 4, 6](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:
God's Love Transforms Us

SCRIPTURE:
[Ephesians 3](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:
Paul writes a letter to the Ephesians, encouraging them to stay rooted in God's transforming love so that they can know the amazing power of His presence.

WORD OF WONDER:
[Matthew 22:37-38](#)
Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment."



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FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

As a Sunday School teacher, you have the incredible privilege of helping children root themselves in the character of Christ so they can grow and produce good fruit. Just like a grapevine's fruit is shaped by the soil in which it grows, a child's spiritual life is shaped by where they are rooted.

If a child's heart is planted in the soil of selfishness, pride, or fear, those things will shape their actions. But when they are rooted in God's love—when they truly grasp “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” ([Ephesians 3:18, NIV](#))—they are transformed. Their lives will begin to reflect His love, producing the fruit of kindness, patience, and faithfulness.

You play a vital role in this process. Every Bible story you teach, every word of encouragement you offer, and every moment you spend showing Christ's love helps children plant their roots deeper into Him. And as they grow, their lives will bear fruit that reflects God's goodness.

If you ever feel like your own roots need strengthening, simply ask God. He is always ready to nourish and deepen your faith. May the fruit of your own rootedness in Christ be a source of inspiration to those you teach!

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

WHO?

Paul was writing to the followers of Jesus in Ephesus, perhaps with the intention that the letter also be circulated throughout Asia Minor. Paul had used Ephesus as a homebase during a previous mission, so he likely knew many of the recipients personally.



WHAT?

Paul prayed for those who received his letter, that the Holy Spirit would dwell in them, giving them power. He prayed that their love would be rooted in Christ and that they would grow in their understanding of Christ's transformative love.



WHERE?

Ephesus was a city in Asia Minor, located on the western shore of present-day Turkey, across the Aegean Sea from Athens. Paul used Ephesus as a homebase for three years during his mission to Asia Minor.



WHEN?

Paul likely wrote the letter to the Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome around AD 61–62. He had previously spent three years in and around Ephesus between AD 52–55, so the church in Ephesus was well established by this time.



CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In [Ezekiel 36:26](#), God promised to give His people new hearts and fill them with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit's dwelling in us and Christ's living in our hearts fulfills this promise. It changes us, giving us power to live and love like Jesus.



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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), **Welcome Question Slide**

Before kids arrive, display the **Welcome Question Slide**, or write the following question on a whiteboard: "What did you look like as a baby?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Use the feelings chart on the next page and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?"
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger – a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question**. Encourage kids to share their answers with a few people, and invite them to draw a picture of themselves as a baby. Consider making the whiteboard and dry-erase markers available for kids to draw their baby pictures on. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

At your start time...

Call the kids together and let them know you're glad they're there. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What did you look like as a baby?** If kids drew pictures of themselves, invite them to share their pictures.

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



It's so fun to think about how we looked when we were babies! You all have changed so much! Today we're going to learn about how God changes—or transforms—us with His love! But, first, it's time to be curious.

Introduce the word *transform* to the kids by explaining that to transform is to change. For example, a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. And God's love transforms—or changes—us!

Teaching Tip: *There might be kids in your ministry who have never seen baby pictures of themselves. While uncommon, this is sometimes the case for kids who are adopted, in foster care, or who are refugees from another country. Let kids know that if they don't know what they looked like as babies, they can simply draw pictures of what they think they looked like.*

INTERACTIVE GAME: TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE

SUPPLIES: pipe cleaners (2 per kid), timer, **Transformation Challenge Slide**, **Rooted Wonder Truth Slide**

Display the **Transformation Challenge Slide** and invite the kids to sit in a circle. Give each kid two pipe cleaners. At your signal, they will have 30 seconds to create something with their pipe cleaners. Encourage creativity! They can create a person, an animal, a flower, an object—anything! Once the 30 seconds are up, they will pass what they created to the person on their right and quickly explain what it is. Once everyone has their neighbor's creation, start the timer again. This time, give them 20 seconds to transform their neighbor's creation into something new.

Continue playing multiple rounds, passing each new creation to the right with every new round. If you have a smaller group, play until each person gets their original pipe cleaners back.

Make It Inclusive: *If you have a kid who struggles to work with his hands or has visual impairments, invite him to be the timekeeper and to help give instructions to the other kids.*

Display the **Rooted Wonder Truth Slide**. Great job transforming your pipe cleaners! It was so fun to see all the changes you made and the things you created. Today we're going to learn more about how God's love changes our hearts and makes us new. Today's Wonder Truth is: **GOD'S LOVE TRANSFORMS US.**

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

I can be rooted in Your love. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for Your transforming love! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for the opportunity to worship You together today. As we learn from Your Word, please lead and guide us through Your Holy Spirit so we can better love You and better love our neighbors as ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

GOD'S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **Rooted Title Slide**

Display the **Rooted Title Slide**. Have the kids turn in their Bibles to [Ephesians 3](#). Let them know that Ephesians is one of the letters Paul wrote, and it's found in the New Testament. It is in between the books of Galatians and Philipians.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!

Invite several willing kids to read [Ephesians 3:14-19](#) aloud. Each kid can read one or more verses.

Teaching Tip: *If using the Experience It! Script, allow kids a chance to get up and move before the storytelling begins. Invite them to run in place, jump for 15 seconds, or pretend to be a seed and slowly grow up to the sky with arms outstretched like tree branches!*

Watch It!

Watch the [Rooted God's Big Story!](#)

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Experience It!

SUPPLIES: Paul's costume, satchel or bag, flower bouquet, seeds, Bible, camera, DIY time machine or streamers (optional), USB cable (optional), **Rooted Experience It! Script** (1 extra copy), **Paul's Favorite Tree Slide**, **Big and Beautiful Images Slides**

Ahead of time, to create the illusion that Paul has come forward in time from the first century and appeared in your class, consider creating a time machine or decorating a doorway with streamers for Paul to enter through.

Recruit a leader to play the role of Paul during this lesson and the next, if you also plan on using the **Experience It! Script** in Rooted lesson 3. Print an extra copy of the **Experience It! Script** to give to this volunteer ahead of time. While it's not necessary that he memorize his lines, he will want to be familiar with the script.

Consider one of these ideas for Paul's costume: 1. First-century inspired clothing, such as a simple tunic with a rope tied around the waist. 2. Silly, mismatched outfit, such as a Hawaiian shirt, baseball hat, and winter scarf.

Put in Paul's satchel a bouquet of flowers and some seeds. The seeds could be acorns or smaller seeds, depending on how many kids you have. You'll want a lot to scatter and, if desired, share with the kids. If you don't have seeds, consider using confetti or cutup paper.

Enlist an adult volunteer who will sit in the audience and give Paul certain items when prompted. She will hand Paul a Bible and later a camera, and when Paul gives the camera back to her, she will connect it to the computer with a USB cable (or simply pretend to).

The apostle Paul enters the class, stumbling as if he has tumbled through time and landed in your church. Paul looks around and smiles with excitement to see a room full of kids who have come to hear God's Word! He wears or carries a satchel.

Teaching Tip (For Younger Kids): *It can be difficult for younger kids to differentiate between reality and fantasy. Consider having the person playing the part of Paul whisper to the younger kids that he is just pretending to be the apostle Paul and to travel through time, but the real Paul did write all about being rooted in God's love.*

PAUL: **Wow! I took a walk forward in time—all the way from first-century Rome. Where am I?** Pause for kids to respond. **What year is it?** Pause for kids to respond. **My name is Paul. Many people call me the apostle Paul because I'm a follower of Jesus - and missionary. I did a lot of work back in the first century to help the early church get started.**

(Optional script if Paul is in a silly costume.) **I want to apologize for my clothes. I had no idea how I should dress here in the twenty-first century. How did I do? Do you think I'll blend in dressed like this?** Pause for kids to respond.

I brought you something. Reach into your satchel and pull out a bouquet of flowers. **Ta-da! Flowers without roots! I recently learned this is what people do in the twenty-first century to show their love: give flowers (pause) without roots.** Hold them out to the kids. **And I sure love you, the church! Pause and look at the flowers, puzzled. I have to ask though—why flowers without roots? What do you even do with flowers without roots?** Pause for kids to respond. **Without their roots, what do you think these flowers will look like in a few days or a few weeks? Can you all show me with your faces?** Pause for kids to respond. **I thought so.**

My love for you won't fade with these flowers. Set the flowers where everyone can see them. **But enough about my love for you. I came here today, all the way from the first century, to tell you about God's love, which never fades! I know firsthand how amazing God's love is because... God changed my heart. I am not the same Paul I once was! You see, I was once an enemy of Jesus and His followers. But then... I met the risen Jesus! And that changed everything for me.**

Reach into your satchel and pull out a handful of seeds. **These are seeds from my favorite tree. I would have preferred to bring you a tree with roots today instead of flowers without roots—but my favorite tree is too big and heavy. And have you ever tried to pull out a big tree with roots in the ground?** Pause for kids to respond. **Well, I'm definitely not strong enough.** Look at the seeds. **These seeds though ... if given good soil, water, sunlight, and something invisible called carbon dioxide (whisper: we don't even know what that is in my century)... if given all these things, these seeds could change—or transform—into a tree! How does that even happen?** Pause and think or allow the kids to respond. **Well, who sends the rain, who sends the sunlight, and who made the soil and the carbon dioxide?** Pause for kids to respond.

When God changed my heart, I was filled with the Holy Spirit—God's Spirit, who is our powerful, wise, and loving helper. Then God sent me to tell the nations about God's love, to let people everywhere know that Jesus—Israel's Messiah—is King of the whole world. Jesus' love made the way for all people to be a part of God's forever kingdom. What wonderful news!

I spread this good news all over the place, like this! Joyfully toss the seeds to your right and left, and possibly into the audience while you continue. If using large seeds like acorns, you could hand one to each kid. **I traveled around sharing about the love of Jesus, starting churches, and writing letters. One of my letters was addressed to a group of followers of Jesus, in the city of Ephesus. I wanted the Ephesian Christians to know that the wonderful promises God had made to the Jewish people—to send an everlasting King and invite them to be part of God's forever kingdom—were also for the non-Jewish people called Gentiles. Every Jew or Gentile with faith in Jesus would be part of one big family, with God as their Father. I wanted the Ephesians to know that every believer in every place has the same God and Father.** Toss out one more handful of seeds with a flourish. **The good news was spreading!**

Guess what? My letter to the Ephesians is now in your Bible! Does anyone have one? The adult volunteer offers you a Bible. Hold it with awe and reverence. **Wow! The whole Word of God right in my hands.** Open it to [Ephesians 3](#). **Oh, look, my letter is called Ephesians because I was writing to the Ephesians!** Chuckle a little. **Your Bible makes so much sense.**

In my letter to the Ephesians, I shared my prayer to the Father on behalf of followers of Jesus. I prayed that God would *transform* them, changing them completely just as God had transformed me. Kind of like ... how God changes a seed into a tree! Pause and think. **I wish there was a way I could show you my favorite tree. When I was praying for the Ephesians, it's quite possible I was thinking about a tree like this one, and I'd really love for you to see it.**

I've got an idea! Maybe I can use one of those strange little boxes that traps the image of whatever is in front of it. You know, one of these... Act out using a camera until kids respond. **Yes, a camera! Does anyone have one?** The adult volunteer hands you the camera. **Thank you! I'll be right back!** Go back through your time machine (or just through the door). Immediately return—but with your clothes askew, panting as if you just finished a marathon. **Sorry that took so long.** Pause to catch your breath. **It's a long walk through time.** Hold up the camera triumphantly. **But I got it! Is there any way to make the trapped images bigger?** Hand the camera to the adult volunteer, who appears to do something techy.

Paul's Favorite Tree Slide comes up onscreen. Gasp when you see it. **My favorite tree!**

Look at my favorite tree and listen to my prayer for the Ephesians. Read from the Bible. “I pray that He will use his glorious riches to make you *strong*. May His Holy Spirit give you His power deep down inside you” ([Ephesians 3:16](#), emphasis added). Look at the kids. The Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift. When people experience God’s power within them, it helps them understand God’s love and want to please Him with their whole lives. Continue reading: “Then Christ will live in your hearts because you believe in Him. And I pray that your love will have *deep roots*. I pray that it will have a strong foundation” ([Ephesians 3:17](#), emphasis added). Look at the kids. I wanted the Ephesians to be rooted in Jesus and His love, like my favorite tree is rooted in rich, life-giving soil. Look at the screen.

My prayer for the Ephesians was that they—along with all God’s people—would have power to understand the love of Jesus. Read from the Bible. “May you know how *wide* and *long* and *high* and *deep* [God’s love] is” ([Ephesians 3:18](#), emphasis added). Look at the kids. The love of Jesus is big and beautiful. I trapped a few more images to show you how big and how beautiful the love of God is.

Display the three **Big and Beautiful Images Slides** (1, 2, 3), pausing at each slide to admire the images of mountains, ocean, and galaxies. Keep the galaxy image on the screen. **But this doesn’t even capture it.** Under your breath, a bit surprised: **Although my camera skills are surprisingly good.**

Can you believe it? God’s love is bigger and more beautiful than even these! The mountains, the ocean, and even the galaxies have a limit. But God’s love? It can’t be measured or known completely because it’s just so *big*.

I prayed for the Ephesian Christians to better understand God’s love because I know God’s love would change them. Hold the Bible open to [Ephesians 3](#). “Then you will be filled with everything God has for you” ([Ephesians 3:19](#)). Look at the kids. God’s love was making them into the people God created them to be, just like it was transforming me, and just like it does for you today! God’s love never fades (look at the flowers) like these flowers will fade, or even my favorite tree.

God’s love can’t be measured. God’s love changes our hearts and makes us new. God’s love transforms us.

It was a joy to be with you today. Head toward your time machine (or the door). I need to get back to the first century now and continue spreading the good news of God’s big and beautiful love! Throw out one more handful of seeds. **You can do the same here! Would anyone mind if I borrowed that camera for a bit?** The adult volunteer hands you the camera. **Wow, thanks! I’ll bring it back soon. Grace to all! And peace.** Exit through your time machine or the door.

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD’S LOVE TRANSFORMS US. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth as a baby, God promised to give His people new hearts and fill them with His Spirit. When we follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit at our sealing, to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit fulfills God’s promise from long ago!

What is most amazing to you about the love of God? Invite the kids to share their thoughts on God’s love.

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- Who wrote the book of Ephesians? (*Paul*)
- What are non-Jewish people called? (*Gentiles*)
- What is Jesus King of? (*the whole world*)
- Why is it good news that God wants us to be a part of His kingdom?
- When is a time you have felt God's love?
- How can God's love transform us?

Teaching Tip (For Younger Kids): *If kids are unsure of the answers, invite volunteer leaders to share their thoughts as well. Foster an atmosphere of encouragement as kids work together to answer questions and remember what they learned.*

God's love is so amazing—He loves us so much, and He transforms us through His love. God loves it when we talk to Him and ask for His help. He wants to help us become more like Him. Let's spend some time praying together.

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Invite the kids to share prayer requests and ways they need God's help in their lives. After a few minutes, invite some kids to pray for the requests and to thank Jesus for His love.

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- **Did Paul always love Jesus? Explain.** *(No. He used to be God's enemy. But God's love transformed him.)*
- **What are non-Jewish people called?** *(Gentiles)*
- **What did Paul want the Ephesians to be rooted in?** *(the love of Jesus)*
- **How can the Holy Spirit help us stay rooted?**
- **When is a time you have felt God's love for you?**
- **How has God's love transformed you?**

God's love truly does change us. It is His love that can help us each day, even when we face hard things. Let's take some time to pray together and thank God for His love and His help.

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Invite the kids to share some ways they need God's love to transform them or a situation in their lives. After they've had some time to share, pray for all the kids, asking God to step into each of their situations and transform them with His love.

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: GROWING DEEP ROOTS

SUPPLIES: biodegradable mini planting pots (1 per kid), potting soil (1 small bag), flower seeds, trash bags or disposable tablecloths (1 or more per table), small watering can or spray bottle, water, tables, crayons or markers, disposable spoons, clear kitchen stretch wrap (optional), [Responding in Worship Slide](#), [Growing Deep Roots Slide](#), [Deep Roots Sheet](#) (1 per kid, optional), [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, if you plan on having kids plant seeds, order biodegradable mini planting pots. They are available in bulk through online retailers. Gather the other necessary supplies. Put trash bags or plastic disposable tablecloths over the tables where kids will be planting. Fill a small watering can or spray bottle with water. As an alternative to planting seeds, kids can use the [Deep Roots Sheet](#) for this response activity. If using the sheet, print a copy for each kid. Even if you plan on using the [Deep Roots Sheet](#) rather than having kids plant seeds, have some kind of seed available to use as a visual.

Gather kids and display the [Responding in Worship Slide](#). Today we've learned about how God's love transforms us. When Jesus lives in our hearts, He grows His love and power in us. The more we trust in Him, the deeper our roots grow, and we can become more like Jesus as we depend on the Holy Spirit.

Have any of you ever planted a garden or watched a flower grow over time? Invite the kids to respond. It's amazing to see a small seed become a beautiful flower! Show the kids a flower seed. If you have plenty, invite each kid to hold a seed. Display the [Growing Deep Roots Slide](#).

When we trust in Jesus, it's like a seed of truth planted in our hearts. As we continue to grow in Jesus, by reading our Bibles and talking to God and trusting Him, we grow deep roots. The Holy Spirit leads us as we grow in Jesus, and God's love begins to transform us. God's love for us is so amazing and big and beautiful. It changes our hearts and makes us new!

Invite kids to use crayons or markers to decorate their pots. They can draw pictures or write words on their pots that demonstrate ways God's love amazes them or ways they want to grow deep roots in His love. After a few minutes, encourage the kids to put some potting soil into their pots, using disposable spoons as needed. Then have them plant a seed in the soil and pour or spray a very small amount of water on it, just enough to moisten the soil. Consider helping kids cover their pots with clear kitchen stretch wrap. This will lessen the chance of messes on the way home and help create an ideal, humid environment for the seed to germinate. Tell kids to take the wrap off as soon as the plant starts to grow and breaks the surface of the soil.

Teaching Tip: Station multiple leaders at the planting table to monitor the watering process as kids can tend to overwater seeds. Soil should be moist, not wet.

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Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment."



Lesson
PPT Slides



Lesson
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Lesson
Printables

ELEMENTARY

Alternatively, if using the **Deep Roots Sheet**, hand them out and invite kids to draw a growing plant or flower on their sheets. They might want to include the roots growing deep into the soil. Once they've finished drawing their plant or flower, they can write or draw ways that God's love amazes them or ways they want to grow deep roots in His love.

Consider playing songs from the [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work.

Once all the kids have finished planting their seeds or drawing and writing on their sheets, gather everyone together. **Great job planting seeds today! When you take your seeds home, set them near a window where they can soak in sunlight, and water them just enough to keep the soil moist. Hopefully, your seeds will transform into beautiful flowers! And when they do, they can remind you that when we trust in Jesus and grow in Him, God's love transforms us and makes us new. God's love makes beautiful things!**

If your kids used the **Deep Roots Sheet**, instead of planting seeds, say: **You all drew such beautiful flowers and plants! When you go home, put your picture somewhere you'll see often. Each time you look at it, remember that when we trust in Jesus and grow in Him, God's love transforms us like a seed transforms into a flower. God's love makes beautiful things!**

Disclaimer: *We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.*

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: **May the Lord bless and keep you and remind you this week of His great, transforming love for you. Stay rooted in Him!**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY

This additional game or activity is optional and can be used in the lesson where a movement break is needed. We've included teaching tips and tips to make the game and activity inclusive for all kids. Printables for the game and activity, if needed, are included in the printable link.

HOOP RACE

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoops (3), painter's tape or small cones

Make It Inclusive: *If some kids in your group struggle with coordination, or if you have a lot of younger kids playing, consider simplifying this game by having kids roll the hoop on its side to the finish line rather than jumping through it.*

In this game, teams will race each other while jumping through large plastic hoops, much like they would jump ropes.

Ahead of time, use painter's tape or cones to create a start line and a finish line on the floor.

Gather kids together and help them form three equal-sized teams. (If your group and space are large, consider having more than three teams with a large plastic hoop for each. Alternatively, if time or space is limited, select three kid volunteers to race while everyone else cheers for them.)

For this game, teams will race from the start line to the finish line. When it's your turn, you'll swing your team's hoop over your head like a jump rope and jump through it. If you are able, demonstrate this for the kids. Or you may want to invite another leader or an older kid to demonstrate each step. **Then you will toss the hoop in front of you, jump into it, pick it back up, and swing it over your head again like a jump rope. You'll continue doing this until you reach the finish line. Once you've crossed the finish line, you'll run with the hoop back to your team and hand it to the next person in line. The goal is for everyone on your team to make it to the finish line!**

Once all the teams are set, say: **Ready, set, go!** Cheer for kids by name as they race and be ready to help any who need extra assistance. When everyone has finished, gather kids together.

Everyone did an amazing job! You all transformed into amazing jumpers! To get through the hoop, you had to jump pretty high. And to get across the room, you had to go a long way. But you did it, and you didn't stop! This game can remind us that God's love transforms us. It can also remind us of something else we learned today in God's big story. Paul wrote about God's love, saying, "May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is" ([Ephesians 3:18](#)). Always and no matter what, God's love for you will never end.

ROOTED

LESSON 2

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21,](#)

[23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)

[ID 2, 4, 6](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

God's Love Transforms Us

SCRIPTURE:

[Ephesians 3](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:

Paul writes a letter to the Ephesians, encouraging them to stay rooted in God's transforming love so that they can know the amazing power of His presence.

WORD OF WONDER:

[Matthew 22:37-38](#)

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment."



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