



R.O.O.T.S.

READ THE BIBLE (1/2/11)

The BIG Idea: *The first way that we can begin to grow closer to God is by spending time with Him in His word every day.*

1. READ Psalm 1. What does Psalm 1 have to say about reading the Bible?
2. How would life be different if you didn't have the Bible? Would it change much?
3. Have you ever tried to read the Bible every day? How did you do?
4. Did you take up this week's challenge to read the Bible daily? If not, what is standing in your way of making that commitment?

This week we sent kids home with a small plant. For the next few weeks, encourage your student to spend time daily growing both their plant and their spiritual roots.

The best thing you can do as a parent to encourage this discipline is model it. If you've had trouble with this yourself, set aside 5 minutes each day as family devotion time.

R.O.O.T.S. Tool - Short booklet about the Bible with reading tips and a helpful book for daily reading, the *One-Minute Bible for Students* (\$10)

OFFER YOUR RESOURCES & SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1/16/11)

The BIG Idea: *Growth happens when we work to produce fruit through our spiritual gifts & abilities, our resources and the fruit of the Spirit.*

1. How have you grown this past week (since the *Open Up To God* lesson)? Did you write on a spiritual growth leaf this week? What did you write?
2. What are three abilities God has given you or things that He has made you good at?
3. Thinking through all of the things that God has given you (talents, money, time, etc), what do you have lots of? What is one way you can give that to God this week?

If your student hasn't tried one of the R.O.O.T.S. tools yet, encourage them to take one home this week. The *Offer Yourself* tool is a pretty simple one and anyone should be able to work through it.

R.O.O.T.S. Tool - Booklet designed to help students understand how they can use what God has given them. The first session is about giving money. The last two help them understand how God can use their unique gifts. It should take 2-3 weeks to complete.

STUDY GOD'S WORD (1/30/11)

The BIG Idea: *If we want to develop solid, deep spiritual roots, we have to write God's word on our hearts to prepare for the day when the spiritual attacks come.*

For fun way to start talking this week, play a game of memory or challenge the family to see who has the best memory (google "short term memory test" for some fun stuff).

1. How have you grown this past week (since the *Talk To Others* lesson)? Did you write on a spiritual growth leaf this week? What did you write?
2. READ Luke 4:1-13 as a family. How did Jesus fight off the temptations of Satan?
3. Have you ever used the Bible to help fight off temptation? When?
4. Do you have any verses memorized? Why are they important to you? How could they help you when you're struggling or being tempted?
5. What verses did you write on your cloth and tie to your hand? (Deut. 6:8)

R.O.O.T.S. Tool - Booklet & key chain memory cards that will both help kids get in the habit of memorizing scripture and help them learn a few very important Bible verses.

OPEN UP TO GOD THROUGH PRAYER (1/9/11)

The BIG Idea: *Any relationship, including one with God, requires regular, honest conversations if you really want to grow close.*

1. How have you grown this past week (since the *Read the Bible* lesson)? What did you write on your spiritual growth leaf in class on Sunday morning?
2. How often would you say you pray (talk to God)? When something exciting happens do you share it with Him? What about when something scary or sad happens?
3. READ Mark 6:45-46. What does this say about the importance of talking to God?
4. What can you do with your prayer card to use it as a reminder to talk to God everyday? (Everyone got a laminated card so they can put it anywhere as a reminder.)

If you want to do even more, create a prayer journal with your family. Write down the things that your family is praying for and make a note of each as they are answered.

R.O.O.T.S. Tool - Booklet designed to challenge students to understand prayer better and to try a few new ways of talking to God. It should take 2-3 weeks to complete.

TALK TO OTHERS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY (1/23/11)

The BIG Idea: *Sometimes it hurts, but if we want to grow closer to God we have to have people around us who are willing to confront us and we must also be willing to listen.*

1. How have you grown this past week (since the *Offer Yourself* lesson)? Did you write on a spiritual growth paper fruit this week? What did you write?
2. READ John 15:1-5. What are you doing right now to "remain in" Him?
3. What do you think it means to be pruned by God?
4. We all have times in our lives when we've messed up or we need to do better. Do you have people in your life who challenge you to grow and call you out (prune you) when you're sinning or messing up? If not, how can you work to find those people?
5. Who was your Band-aid partner at the end of the lesson? Are you praying for them?

R.O.O.T.S. Tool - Booklet designed to guide students through the process of forming an accountability group. They will learn the importance of having strong Christian friends and they will begin meeting with one or two people who will challenge them to grow. It should take 2-3 weeks to complete.

Jr. High Parents Discussion Guide

