

Elementary and Preschool
Week 2: God is Able

Lesson Overview:

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Key Passage to Memorize: “And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8 *Preschoolers will memorize the underlined portion while elementary-aged children will memorize the whole passage above.*

Main Point: God is able and can always be trusted.

Can we trust God? Yes! God is able and can always be trusted.
We can trust his promises, power, and provisions.

Lesson time: 60 Minutes

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes while students arrive.

Introduction: 10 minutes to get students' attention and to introduce the topic.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes, read verses from the Bible and explain how to find them.

Application Activity: 10 minutes

Review and Pray: 15 minutes

Closing Activity: 10 minutes

Items Needed:

Ice Breaker: Week 2 *Sowing and Reaping Coloring Sheet* (one per child) and Crayons.

Introductory Activity: Nothing needed

Application Activity: Elementary- *Let Trust Take Root activity page* and a pencil (one per child). Preschool-*Plant Activity page*, glue stick, and safety scissors (one per child). Cut the page in half prior to class. For younger preschoolers, cut seeds and plants out before class also.

Review and Pray: Elementary- *Reflection page for week one sheet*, pencil, and crayons—preschool-letter *tracing activity sheet* one per child, playdough, and dab-and-dot markers.

Closing Activity: Elementary-*Code Breaker Sheet* and a pencil for each child.
Preschool-*Verse Hop sheet*, one copy.

Ice Breaker-10 minutes: *Designed to get kids ready to learn, create a welcoming atmosphere, get their attention, and allow them to focus while others arrive. The icebreaker activity begins when your classroom opens, not when class officially starts. Do this activity as the children arrive.*

- Before children arrive, put out the *Week 2 Coloring Sheet: Sowing and Reaping* (elementary and preschool) at each seat and some crayons in the center of each table.
- As children arrive, greet them and ask them to find a spot at each table. Then, have them choose a place to sit and begin coloring their coloring sheet.

After about 5-6 minutes of coloring, say: **The Bible says the person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.** Let kids continue to color and keep welcoming new arrivers. Walk around and admire each child's work.

Say: **You all did a great job working on your coloring sheet. Today we are learning that God is able and can always be trusted.**

Ask: **Can we trust God? Yes! God is able and can always be trusted. We can trust his promises, power, and provisions.**

Say: **God is able and can always be trusted.**

Introduction- 10 minutes: *The introduction is designed to lay the foundation for what you teach and where you will be in scripture.*

Say: (Elementary and Preschool) We are playing a game called garden tag for this activity.

Pick one child to be the gardener and one child to be the beekeeper.

Explain: The gardener tells the bees how to fly or move around the garden.

Bees (the rest of the class) must do what the gardener tells them. The gardener can say bees must walk, run, hop, jump, crabwalk, or crawl around the garden to pollinate the flowers. But they must be careful! The beekeeper is running around trying to catch the bees! The only safe place in the whole garden is the flower (whatever base you assign). When the beekeeper catches them, they jump on one foot 5 times to be free again.

- Facilitate gameplay for as long as children are interested.
- After the game, have everyone return to the rug or table to discuss the game.

Explain: Today; we played a game about a garden! It was so fun, the gardener was in charge of what we did, and as we ran around or flew like bees, we helped flowers grow. Today we are learning about sowing and reaping, which are words used in gardening with plants, but the New Testament also uses them a lot. We are reading in the New Testament about how God is able. God can do anything, and we can always trust him.

For Preschool, say: Let's read from the Bible, God's special book, and see what it says about how God is able.

For Elementary-age kids, Let's look at God's Word, the Bible, and see what it says about how God is Able and listen for the words sow or sowing and reap or reaping.

Bible Reading- 5 minutes:

Hold your Bible and say: This is God's special book, the Bible. When we read from it, we get to hear what God is saying to us. Today we are reading from 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books. The Bible is made up of 66 books that tell one big story about how Jesus came to save people. 2 Corinthians is a book of the Bible in the New Testament. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians as a letter to the church of Corinth. He wanted to encourage them to live generously, trust God, and love others like Jesus modeled. Today we will learn how God is able and trustworthy in everything.

Find 2 Corinthians in your Bible, and explain how 9 is the chapter. It is the big number, and after you find the big 9, you read the verse. The verses are the sentences after the little 6. Ask elementary-aged kids to get their Bibles out and find the passage (help them as needed) and have them follow along as it is read. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 out loud. If you are teaching elementary-aged kids and someone wants to read out loud, give them that opportunity.

Reread verse 6 and talk about what sowing and reaping mean. For example, if you are sowing seeds in a garden, the fruits or vegetables are what you reap. Paul says if you sow sparingly, you reap sparingly. If you sow bountifully, you will reap

bountifully. That means if you sow or plant only one or two seeds, you will only have one or two plants to reap. That is sparingly because you will not have much. If you sow or plant bountifully, which means if you plant many seeds and many things, then you will reap many plants and fruits and vegetables. You can't reap plants, fruits, or veggies in a garden without sowing or planting seeds. It is easy to think Paul is really only talking about plants, but let's read verse 7; it becomes clearer that Paul really is talking about giving money, time, and belongings.

Reread verse 7. Paul says that each person must decide in their heart how they will give and what they will give. That means we should choose to give generously with a heart that wants to give because we want to honor God, not because we feel like we are being forced or made to give.

Share Luke 6:38 with your group, "Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." This verse shows us that God can be trusted. When we choose to give and be generous, God is able to take care of us, and He will make sure our needs are met.

Reread verse 8. God provides us with what we need. We can trust his power and provision (his ability to provide for us). God is able, and we can trust Him.

Application Activity- 10 minutes: *Designed to get your kids thinking, moving, and driving the main point home.*

Elementary: Pass out the *Let Trust Take Root Pages* and pencils to each child. Explain that today we learned about how God is able. We can trust God to provide and meet our needs. God is trustworthy in all things. Ask them to write things that make God trustworthy in the "roots" of the tree and then think through and write fruit or good things that come from trusting God in the "leaves" of the tree.

Preschool: Print the *Plant* activity page before class—one copy per child. Before class cut along the dotted line and give each child both halves. For two-year-olds and younger, cut the seeds and plants out prior to class. Supply preschool-safe scissors and glue sticks for each child.

Have your group meet you at the table and explain that each child will get a sheet of paper that looks like a garden, a sheet of paper with plants and seeds, a glue stick, and safety scissors. Explain that each child will cut out the seeds and glue them in the "dirt" on the garden page. Then they will cut out the plans and glue them in the "grass" on the garden page.

Say: Today we talked about sowing and reaping. Those are gardening words, and we got to sow seeds and reap plants on our paper in our paper gardens. Remember God is able and can always be trusted. Can we trust God? Yes! God is able and can always be trusted. We can trust his promises, power, and provisions.

Review and Pray- 15 Minutes: *Designed to review the main point, reflect on the lesson and spend time talking to God.*

Elementary- Pass out *reflection pages for week 2*, pencils, and crayons. Explain that you will do a weekly reflection page to help each child process what you are learning and help them spend a little time talking to God. Explain that they will retell or draw what they learned from God's word today on their paper. Then they will write out or illustrate how what they learn applies to their lives and write or draw a prayer to God. Then, finally, they will use the word bank at the bottom of the page to finish the memory verse.

After everyone has finished their reflection page, gather their pencils and crayons and tell them you will pray together as a group.

Dear God, thank You that You can be trusted. Thank you that you are able to do anything! Thank you give us the opportunity to sow and reap to be a part of your work. Help us to give generously. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Preschool- Give each child a copy of the letter *tracing activity sheet*, a ball of playdough, and dab-and-dot markers (crayons or markers if dab-and-dot markers are unavailable).

Explain that each child will get a sheet of paper, and it says God is able! First, have your group trace each letter with their finger, saying it out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, "God is Able!"

Second, have your group take their playdough and form each letter on the page with the playdough, saying the letter out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, "God is Able!"

Third, have your group take their dab-and-dot makers and dot out each letter saying the letter out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, "God is Able!"

You can do this as many times as your group wants to. Then take up the playdough and makers and pray together as a group.

Say: We will talk to God now; that is called praying. God can hear us all the time. Let's get our bodies ready to pray. Ask: Are you sitting down on the ground? Are your feet still? Are your hands where you can be still and focus on God? Then ask if their eyes are closed so they can focus on God. Then tell them you will pray out loud, and they can talk to God in their head and hearts.

Dear God, thank You that You can be trusted. Thank you that you are able to do anything! Thank you give us the opportunity to sow and reap to be a part of your work. Help us to give generously. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Activity: 5 minutes

Elementary: Pass out *code breaker pages* and pencils to each child. Explain that they will use the key at the top of the page to write the corresponding letter above the line so they can decode the message.

After they all decode the message, explain that this is part of the verse you will memorize this week. Then, say it together a few times.

Preschool: Play verse hop. Have your group form a line. Lay out the *Verse Hop Cards* on the floor in a line. Have each child take turns hopping on each word of the verse and help them say the verse out loud. Let each child have a turn while you are waiting on their grown-ups to pick them up.

“And God is able to make every grace overflow to you.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Send the take-home page with each child. Copy it front and back and cut the sheets into fourths. Each child will take a 1/4th sheet home. Please point out the memory verse to their parents.