

# Let the Little Children Come

## Lesson 15. **GROWING THINGS**

- Purpose:
- a) To make the child aware that living things grow.
  - b) To allow the children to realize that they have grown.
  - c) To make the child aware that the baby Jesus didn't stay a baby forever, either.
  - d) To begin the concept that communication involves talking and listening.
  - e) Indirectly, to continue sorting into categories ("living" and "nonliving").

Materials: A number of living and nonliving items  
plants,  
bell,  
rock in a pot of dirt,  
a watering can,  
a smile  
etc.

- Presentation:
- 1) Show the children a plant and explain how you planted a seed in the soil, gave it light and water, and after awhile, it started to grow...and got bigger and bigger.
  - 2) Now, show them a rock in a pot of dirt. Act very confused and explain that you've watered it...given it plenty of light...and it hasn't do a thing. It just sits there!
  - 3) See if they can figure out "what's wrong."
  - 4) Lead the children into discovering that living things grow and nonliving things don't.
  - 5) Ask them if they have grown since they were born. (You might want to talk how, when they were smaller, they couldn't talk, walk, etc.)
  - 6) Ask them if they think that the baby Jesus could tell everyone about how much God loved them while He was still a baby.
  - 7) Lead them into realizing that Jesus had to learn to talk, first. In other words, He had to grow up...or older...first.

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- 8) Tell them that lots of times we know something but we can't explain it to another person...maybe because we don't know the right words.
- 9) Remind them that a baby has to listen before it can learn to talk...otherwise, the baby wouldn't hear the words and learn to say them.
- 10) Tell them that they were very good listeners when they were babies; and ask them if they still remember how to do it (i.e., listen).
- 11) Tell them that we have grown a great deal when we have learned to talk and listen.
- 12) And since they are listening so well, you are going to teach them two new words..."living" and "nonliving."
- 13) Hold up the plant and say, "This plant grows. Therefore, it is 'living'."
- 14) Hold up the rock and say, "This rock doesn't grow. Therefore, it is 'nonliving'."
- 15) Hold up a bell and say, "Nonliving."
- 16) Hold up a picture of a smile (and make the smile on your face grow bigger) and say, "living."
- 17) Continue until the children get the idea and can help decide which is which.

(Have some fun with it! For instance, suggest watering the bell, etc. They love a joke! But do it only after they have the idea straight.)

Activity: They can continue sorting.