

# TEACHING WITH TOYS



## PLAY DOUGH BIBLE LESSONS



## **Copyright Notice**

---

The material enclosed is copyrighted. You do not have resell rights or giveaway rights to the material provided herein. Only customers that have purchased this material are authorized to view it. If you think you may have an illegally distributed copy of this material, please contact us immediately.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or by information storage and retrieval systems. It is illegal to copy this material and publish it on another web site, news group, forum, etc. even if you include the copyright notice.

## **Legal Notice**

---

While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this publication, neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility for errors, omissions or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein. The publisher wants to stress that the information contained herein may be subject to varying state and/or local laws or regulations. All users are advised to retain competent counsel to determine what state and/or local laws or regulations may apply to the user's particular operation. The purchaser or reader of this publication assumes responsibility for the use of these materials and information. Adherence to all applicable laws and regulations, federal, state and local, governing professional licensing, operation practices, and all other aspects of operation in the US or any other jurisdiction is the sole responsibility of the purchaser or reader. The publisher and author assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever on the behalf of any purchaser or reader of these materials. Any perceived slights of specific people or organizations is unintentional.

# CONTENTS

---

<b>Introduction: Play Dough Lessons For Sunday School.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Play Dough Lesson #1: I Am The Vine; You Are The Branches .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I Am The Vine Craft: What Fruit Will I Grow? .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>I Am The Vine Game: Memorize Using Play Dough .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Play Dough Lesson #2: Remaking A Vase To Improve It .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Potter Remaking Craft: Vessels Of Honor.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Potter Remaking Game: Making Pottery In A Flash.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Play Dough Lesson #3: Fruits Of The Spirit .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Fruits Of The Spirit Craft: Fruit Picking .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Fruit Of The Spirit Game: Memorization Game.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Play Dough Lesson #4: Jesus Is The Bread Of Life.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Bread Of Life Craft: Play Dough Pb&amp;Js.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Bread Of Life Play Dough Game: Find The Bread Memory Game .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Play Dough Lesson #5: When We Are Like Lost Sheep.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Lost Sheep Craft: Creating Ourselves As Sheep.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Lost Sheep Game: Find The Lost Sheep .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Play Dough Lesson #6: Faith Like A Mustard Seed .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Mustard Seed Craft: Mulberry Trees Flying Into Water .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Mustard Seed Game: Casting Mountains Into The Sea .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Three Great Recipes for Homemade Play Dough.....</b>	<b>49</b>

## INTRODUCTION

---

# PLAY DOUGH LESSONS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL (AND TEACHING ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH)

---

Kids all love play dough—the colors, the shaping, the self-expression, even the smell! Here’s your chance to give kids a greater understanding of spiritual growth and how God works in our lives—by letting play dough lead the way!

**Included are six lessons using play dough, each complete with a game and a craft!** Your preparation will include creating a Bible concept out of play dough, such as the nine Fruits of the Spirit, by following our easy instructions. You will use that creation as part of your lesson, and the students will make their own versions of it as a craft. Then some fun, fast, and memorable games involving play dough will help reinforce the concepts.

**Most activities come with discussion questions,** often with notes on the answers that you’re looking for as well as some “triggers” that will get kids thinking and talking.

**As a tool for teaching about spiritual growth,** each lesson and activity covers Scripture passages that are easily understood with play-dough visual aids. Here are the six weekly themes:

1. I am the Vine; You are the Branches
2. The Potter’s Clay
3. Fruits of the Spirit
4. I am the Bread of Life
5. The Lost Sheep
6. The Mustard Seed of Faith

## TEACH BY PRODUCTION AND REINFORCEMENT

---

The crafts allow kids to get their mitts on play dough, recreating your lesson aid or applying some creativity to give it their own look. While kids are working, you should ask the discussion questions to get them thinking about what their artwork means.

Games will get kids out of their chairs, often tossing or rolling play-dough balls or creating in fast-paced relays. Discussion questions or reflections follow, so they will be sure to have something to remember during the week.

## HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS PACKAGE

---

Each lesson includes the main Scripture for that week. You should read the Scripture at the top of the lesson, then follow along with **our teacher's words in bold**. Of course, your own creative touches are great—our words are there to guide, help, and encourage—not to hinder!

The craft should follow, and in asking discussion questions while they're creating, you can reinforce the lesson while they're having fun.

Follow with the game if you have time, as they are designed to reinforce the same messages as the lesson and craft, while shifting direction to get kids moving or thinking differently.

**Crafts will be fun - though getting them home can be challenging!** Play dough is very unpredictable, according to even the best artists who sculpt with it. It will not harden in time for you to send projects home. You may not even want to send certain projects home. But if you do, we have some solutions.

(1) You can cover crafts with clear plastic wrap, stapled in four corners, and allow students to carefully carry them. Granted, breakage is a possibility, but you know your class and their parents and how well they might care for a project. If you feel it won't make it home without falling to the side or getting squashed, you can wait for it to harden and send it home with the students the following week.

(2) If you decide to let them dry: A week should dry them, if you put them near heat and away from moisture, such as near the radiator or in the sun. Some play-dough experts have topped their play-dough projects with a product called **Topcoat**, which is available at craft stores and on Amazon. It has to be painted on with a brush. You can take the time to do this for your students if you are crafty. Another solution is to **spray them with clear polyurethane** from a spray can. This takes less time than top-coating with a brush. Both spraying and top coating can prevent "salting," which means the projects turn white and/or crack. However, you have to do this on newspaper, making sure your aim is good and you're not hitting the wall or floor.

The big picture of working with play dough is that kids love it and will retain more of the lesson by being involved in projects they love. Whether or not they take them home is secondary.

## **LET KIDS BE CREATIVE AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DISCUSS!**

---

The best thing about our play-dough package is that play dough is very reasonable—easy to make if you don't want to buy it, and has sparked creativity for generations. See our article “Easy Recipes for Making Play Dough” if having a bulk bin of it, at least in white, appeals to you.

Ask discussion questions while busy hands are working, and you'll find that the creations take on greater meaning and become a source of pride to students.

## **WHY TOYS TEACH WELL**

---

A wise man once said, “Interest is the key to learning.” It's true that toys make things very interesting! Use our play-dough lessons to help kids understand what God is doing in their lives, and what spiritual growth requires of us.

And look for our other toy series this summer--Building Blocks to Teach Bible principles and Lessons Using Lego Blocks!

# I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES



Play dough brings life to the vine and branches parable and gives kids a great opportunity to see what the metaphor means about spiritual growth. Kids will get a renewed understanding of the importance of patience as you discuss how spiritual growth is like plant life—you can't see it happening!

## **MATERIALS:**

---

- Play dough colors in black or brown, plus green, pink, and blue
- Yellow construction paper
- Play-Doh leaf mold (or scissors and a toothpick)

## **PREPARATION:**

---

Vine and branches:

1. Place some yellow construction paper flat on the table.
2. Roll black or brown play dough into long strips for vines.
3. Shape the strips to look like vines and branches, leaving one branch separate.
4. Make the green leaves by pressing the green dough into a Play-Doh leaf mold. You can also do this by rolling green play dough flat, cutting out leaves, and using a toothpick to draw veins on the leaves.
5. Arrange leaves around the vine.
6. Make little balls out of pink and blue play dough for berries. Place the pink berries on the big vine and blue on the little vine.

## **SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 15:1-5**

---

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

## **LESSON:**

---

Today we'll be talking about spiritual growth. You grow spiritually the same way you grow physically. Spiritual growth happens slowly, often so slowly that we can't feel ourselves growing.

How many of you have ever had your height measured? How many of you have marks on a wall in your house, where your mom or dad marks off in pencil how much you've grown each year?

Can you feel yourself growing taller?

Spiritual growth is like that also. But God has the means of helping us understand how



important it is to grow spiritually, and we'll look at one of them today.

Point to the play-dough display of the vines and the branches. Point to the vine.

Jesus said, "I am the vine..."

Point to the branches. "...**You are the branches.**"

**What happens to a branch of a tree or a vine if it stays attached to the tree or vine?**

*The vine feeds it. It keeps growing and producing.*

**A vine can send all sorts of nutrients to the branches. It not only keeps a branch alive, but it enables it to bear fruit.**

Point to the vine that has become disconnected. **What happens to a branch if it gets disconnected from the vine?** *It dies.*

**It slowly turns brown. It stops bearing any fruit. When your mom or dad weeds the garden, and they see a stalk or the branch of a bush that has turned brown, what do they do?** *Throw it away.*

Roll that vine into a ball and put it aside.

**It isn't good for anything anymore. They want to make room for new branches to grow and bear more fruit.**

**There is a gardening technique called "pruning." Gardeners will "cut back" a plant that is green and doing well, just so it will grow bigger and have more blooms.**

**And sometimes, God "prunes" our lives! Even if we are doing well at something, God will take it away if he knows we will be happier doing something else.**

**One writer wrote in his blog recently how, when he was 27, he had to make a choice between becoming a writer or a singer. He didn't know which choice to make. Suddenly, he got a bad case of laryngitis that took a couple of years to clear up. By that point, he was very involved as a writer. God "pruned" the piece he didn't need so that he could write better.**

**Have you ever had God take something from you so that you would move on to something bigger? Did you ever have to move to a new city? Did you have to give up a sport or music lessons that you weren't sure you wanted to give up?** Allow them to answer if they have examples.

Take off a piece of the branch that is bearing fruit, roll it into a ball and put it aside.

**Those are times when God wants you to grow something new, something bigger and more important to the whole, big picture of your life.**

Attach a bigger branch bearing more fruit to the vine.

**Jesus says, if you get detached from him, you cannot grow spiritually. But if you stay attached, you will bear much fruit.**

**We're going to make our own vines and branches now. As we do, let's remember that the fruit are symbols. They represent good character traits and good things we can do in our lives.**

# WHAT FRUIT WILL I GROW?



While kids are making their own play-dough vines and branches, symbolizing their own walk with Christ, it's a great time to get them thinking about what God might be doing in their lives already, and who they want to become to his glory.

### **MATERIALS:**

---

- See materials list from the lesson and repeat them for students
- Also include a piece of 8.5 x 11 poster board or heavy cardstock for each student
- Markers

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

1. Hand out the card stock, noting to students that they will create their own vines.
2. Students should copy your tree insofar as the creation of the vine and branches. However, they can get creative and snazzy in designing their own fruits.
3. Tell them they will identify different fruits on the card stock using markers, so they shouldn't place the fruits too close together. Beside or near many fruits, let them write a character trait they would like to develop.
4. They may include many traits, but here are some triggers: Kindness, trustworthiness, loyalty, gratitude, faith, hope, wisdom, vision (for the future), patience, love, charity, optimism, generosity, empathy.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (WHILE THEY ARE CREATING):

---

1. **The parable said that if a branch gets detached from the vine, it will not bear fruit and will eventually wither and die. What things can we do in life to make sure that we, as branches, stay plugged into the vine of Jesus?** *Read, study, reflect, fellowship, pray, ask, listen.*
2. **Let's look at your lives so far. Have you ever seen God move to help you in your life? What was the experience? What do you think he was trying to teach you?** Take answers.
3. **Let's look at your future. What kind of fruits do you want to produce in your life? Think of traits you would like to have...** This may be a great time to get them identifying the fruits on their vines and writing the names beside them.

## I AM THE VINE GAME

---

# MEMORIZE USING PLAY DOUGH

This race to complete a phrase in play dough writing will help kids memorize John 15:5 — a fundamental verse in Christianity.

### MATERIALS:

---

- Play dough of two different colors
- A clear play area on the learning table

### OBJECT:

---

Be the first team to finish writing your part of John 15:5 in play-dough letters.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team at least two cans of play dough, or if you are using the large bin, make it available on a chair between the two teams.
2. By forming letters out of play dough, the first team will write: I AM THE VINE along with JOHN 5:15 (18 characters including the colon). The second team will write: YOU ARE THE BRANCHES! (18 characters, including the exclamation point).
3. The first team to finish without any misspellings and with both punctuation marks (colon for the first team and exclamation point for the second team) wins.

### CONCLUSION:

---

**What have we written?** Get them all to repeat the verse including the reference. **And from our lesson, what does it mean?** *To stay in Jesus like a branch stays attached to a vine!*

# REMAKING A VASE TO IMPROVE IT



Making vessels with play dough is a great metaphor for how God molds us into better people by allowing him to do his good work. Kids will get to see you build and remold, just like the potter of Jeremiah 18:3.

### **MATERIALS:**

---

- Two large balls of blue play dough
- One large ball of pink play dough
- Butter knife or putty knife
- Dixie cup or paper- towel tube
- Scissors
- Play-Doh flower mold

### **PREPARATION:**

---

#### **The mug:**

1. Start with a large ball of blue play dough.
2. Roll the blue play dough flat with a rolling pin.

3. Cut a long rectangle out of the blue play dough.
4. Wrap the rectangle around something small to shape the cup (like a Dixie cup or a paper-towel tube).
5. Slide the play dough off of the round mold and cut the top and bottom with scissors to make the cup even.
6. Make a circular base by pressing a Play-Doh lid or other round object into the leftover blue play dough.
7. Roll the pink play dough into a long round tube and cut it to size.
8. Press the top of the pink tube onto the side of the mug and form a handle, pressing the bottom into place.
9. Use the pink play dough to mold a flower or decoration for the mug.

#### **The bowl:**

1. Start with a large ball of blue play dough.
2. Gently press into the center of the ball, pulling outward until you have a bowl shape.
3. Keep molding around and around until the bowl is smooth and round.
4. Press balls of pink play dough to the outside of the bowl to make polka dots.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: JEREMIAH 18:3-4**

---

**Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.**

#### **LESSON:**

---

Put your smaller vase on the teaching table. **We are talking more about spiritual growth and using play dough. Sometimes people compare our walk with Jesus to us being “potter’s clay.” Jesus is molding us into strong spiritual people, one day at a time, just like a potter molds a beautiful vase or urn.**

**The Scripture verse from Jeremiah takes an interesting twist. It says that the vessel the potter was making spoiled, and so he remade it into a different sort of vessel.**

Take your first play-dough bowl, ball it up, and put it aside.

**Have you ever been very disappointed because something in your life turned out not at all like you expected? Did you miss getting into honors classes? Did you not make starting team on a sport? Did you not get a lead in the play when you expected to? Have you ever wanted a dog and ended up with a cat or a hamster?**

**It almost would seem as if God took a big piece of you away and began shaping your life in a different direction. What are some of the things God might have been preparing you for through that disappointment?** Let them discuss.

As they discuss, roll the clay around in your hands until it is soft. When they are finished, roll it out and begin making something else. You don't have to complete it, as your second vase is available. Just get the point across:

**When God has a bigger and better way for us, sometimes he will start “molding” us in a new direction. Clay is clay. Clay is fun. We can make anything we want with clay. God can do anything in our lives that will work out best for us.**

**In Romans 8:28, the Apostle Paul says that “all things work together for the good of them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Sometimes a grave disappointment can be the start of something much better than what we wanted. Sometimes it takes a long time to see the end result. Sometimes it takes decades. But...**

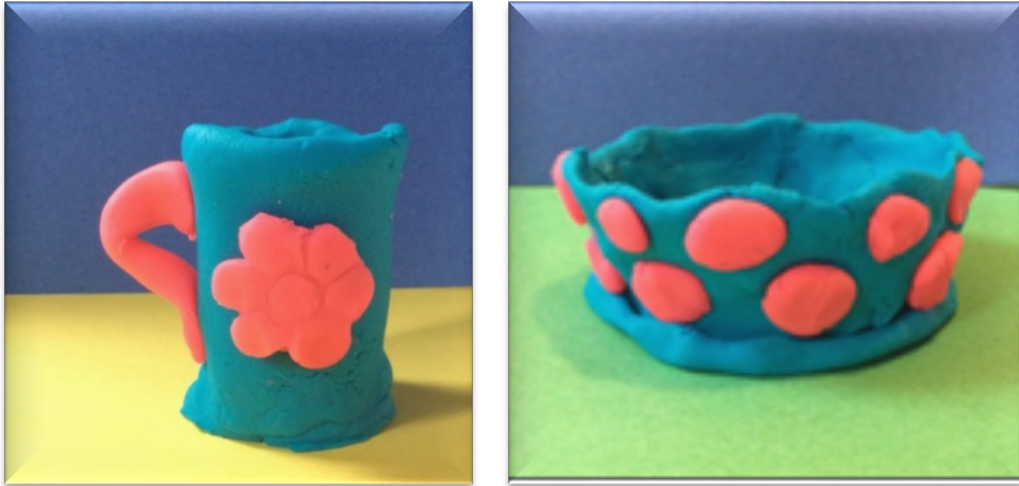
Bring out your second, more beautiful vessel.

**When we put our lives in God's hands, and he begins to work his magic, we have the chance to become the best that we could imagine. When we stand before him in eternity, he can say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” And we can have a look about us that is purely us, and yet it is fine and good.**

**All we have to do is keep believing and allowing him to keep molding.**



# VESSELS OF HONOR



Students can either copy your pottery or make up their own. In either case, it will give them a chance to discuss how God may be molding their lives and the lives of those around them.

## MATERIALS:

---

- See the materials list for the lesson; but have more colors available in case students want to create their own vessels
- Toothpicks

## INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Have them create their own vessels.
2. While they are doing so, read to them 2 Timothy 2:21, about how they themselves can become “vessels of honor” for God: “Those who cleanse themselves will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master, and prepared to do any good work.”

## DISCUSSION:

---

- 1. As we make our vessels, let's remember that a vessel is symbol. What is it a symbol of?** *Us! We are God's vessels!*
- 2. Vessels hold things—like flowers and plants and sometimes important things. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in vessels hidden in caves. As human vessels, what are we holding that is valuable to God? Name some of the traits you would like to develop.** Take answers.
- 3. If something suddenly goes wrong in your life, or something doesn't turn out the way you hoped, how should you feel about that? Think of the potter starting over...** *Like God is finishing one thing to begin a better, more fruitful thing.*

# MAKING POTTERY IN A FLASH

Is it a tree, a house, a bird, a train...or something else? This fast and fun game of quick play-dough redesign will help kids understand why it's important to let Jesus work at molding us and not try to take off on our own! The results of the works of our hands can be such a big mess that we often can't recognize them.

### MATERIALS:

---

- Small basket, like a collection basket
- Piece of paper
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Play dough

### PREPARATION:

---

Write the following words on a paper, with a bit of white space around each, and then cut the words out: Flower, vase, tree, car, dog, bird, cup, house, lamp, table, frying pan, spoon, plane.

Fold all the words so the printing is not legible, and put them in a basket.

### INTRODUCTION:

---

We've learned today, through Jeremiah 18:3, how God is like a potter who molds us slowly over our lifetimes into stronger people. We cannot always see where he's going or what he's making of us, but we need to trust him! Let's play a game of molding ourselves and see where it takes us!

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Divide the students into pairs. If you need an extra, the assistant can fill in.
2. Give each team a lump of play dough the size of a golf ball and have them roll it into a ball.

3. Seat teammates on either side of the table, across from each other.
4. They should start rolling the ball of play dough back and forth into each other's hands. And back and forth and back...
5. Suddenly say, "Go!" One teammate will have the ball. He or she should reach into the basket, pull a slip of paper, read what's on it, and put the slip back into the basket again.
6. Take the basket away to avoid cheating, and refold the papers so the works can't be seen again.
7. The student with the play-dough ball should begin to create what was on the slip of paper. He is not allowed to speak.
8. Give students 60 seconds to build what is on their slip of paper.
9. At the end of 60 seconds, their teammate has to guess what it is. If the teammate can make a one-word guess, the team makes a point. If the guess is wrong, there is no other reprieve for that round. The partner may not guess again.
10. Repeat until a team has three points - or five points if you need a tie-breaker.

## CONCLUSION:

---

This game is a lot like our relationship with God. Often we don't want to wait for him to mold us. We want to set our own pace in life and do the things we want to do, the way we want to do them. That's a little like us doing the molding ourselves or...*allowing our friends to mold us!* We didn't know who was going to end up with the ball of clay. That's like life, when we are letting others set our pace and provide our definition, and taking God's job from us.

What is the result of all this? How many of you were consistently able to tell what your partner was making? It's a little bit of a disaster, isn't it?

Remember the pretty urn from the lesson. When we let God be in charge and let him do the molding, we turn out to be "vessels of honor, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work," according to 2 Timothy 2:21.

Let's rely on God to mold us from now on! Let's not try to rush him or get our own hands into the works!

# FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT



Using the nine Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 is a great way to teach students about spiritual growth. It is also makes a fun play-dough project where they can get more familiar with each of those nine fruits: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## MATERIALS:

---

- Play dough in the following colors: Yellow, brown, red, black, green, purple, and blue
- Butter knife or putty knife
- Play-Doh leaf mold or scissors and a toothpick

## PREPARATION:

---

- Creating the nine Fruits of the Spirit:

### For the banana:

1. Roll the yellow play dough into a long, wide tube and bend.
2. Use a butter knife or putty knife to create flat edges, by pressing around the banana.
3. Use a square of brown play dough for the stem.

**For the orange:**

1. Mix red and yellow play dough together in equal measures to make orange.
2. Make a large round ball and place the green circle in center to create a stem.

**For the apple:**

1. Make a large red ball.
2. Roll some black play dough into a little stem and affix.
3. Make a green leaf out of the Play-Doh mold or carved out of flat play dough and press against stem and apple.

**For the grapes:**

1. Roll several purple pieces of play dough into balls and form a bundle of grapes.
2. Make a little black stem out of rolled play dough and affix to the grapes.
3. Make a green leaf from the mold or carved out of flat play dough and press against the stem and grapes.

**For the raspberries:**

1. Mix together equal measures of red and white play dough to make pink.
2. Roll several pieces of pink play dough into balls and punch them at the top to give them flat tops.
3. Use a toothpick to make dots all over each raspberry as seeds.

**For the strawberries:**

1. Make a medium-size red ball and press the base flat on the table.
2. Pinch the top to make it triangular.
3. Use green play dough to for the leaves on top of the strawberry.
4. Use toothpick to make dots along the strawberry for seeds.

**For the lime and lemon:**

1. Roll a large lime-green ball and a large yellow ball into ovals.

**For the pear:**

1. Roll out a wide cylinder of green play dough
2. Gradually press on one side while rolling until it is thinner than the other side.
3. Press the base on the table to make the bottom flat.
4. Round out the top.
5. Roll a little stem out of black play dough and affix.
6. Make a green leaf out of the Play-Doh leaf mold or carve it out of flat play dough and press against stem and pear.

### **For the blueberries:**

1. Roll several blue pieces of play dough into balls.
2. Use green play dough for little stems.

### **SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 5:22-23**

---

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**

### **LESSON:**

---

Have your nine fruits of the spirit laid out on the teaching table. **The “Fruits of the Spirit,” from Galatians 5:22-23, is one of the most famous Scriptures about spiritual growth. How many fruits of the spirit are there?** Nine.

**And who can remember some of them?** Let the kids say as many as they remember.

Repeat them, point to each of your fruits: **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

**The Apostle Paul calls these qualities “fruits.” This is another metaphor. But let’s think a minute, about fruit, and how fruit is like our spiritual growth.**

**How does a fruit get its start? What is it before it is a fruit?** *A little bloom on a plant.*

**And before it was a little part of a plant, what was it?** *A seed.*

**Our faith starts with spiritual seeds. Jesus refers to sayings in the Bible as “seeds,” and he says they are sprinkled out over the land, and people hear them, and they give their hearts to Jesus.**

**A seed is planted in people, and they “bloom” in Christ, and then they develop “fruit” just like a real plant.**

**What happens to a fruit when it comes off its stem? What begins to happen?** *It begins to lose its nutritional value and eventually, it will rot.*

**What happens to us if we lose touch with Jesus?** *We won’t grow spiritually.*

Take one of the fruits and squash it. Roll it into a ball, and put it back in its place.

**A fruit is something that people eat in order to get nutrition. If we are like fruit, what effect can we have on people, if we share our spiritual selves with them?** *They can get spiritual nutrition if we are living right and are sharing God's love.*

**Let's talk about the famous fruits and what they mean.**

Put the delicate fruits in the middle of the table and let students pass around the others while they take turns responding to your questions about the fruit:

**Love - Whom can you show love to this week that has been hard for you to love? Why has it been hard? What can you do to show love?**

**Joy – What joyful thoughts can you focus on this week? Have you had worrisome, fearful, unforgiving, or hateful thoughts this week? What joyful thoughts can you use to replace them?**

**Peace – God will keep you in perfect peace if your eyes stay focused on him (Isaiah 26:3). What situations are in your life where you need peace? What can you do to get peace?**

**Forbearance—The word actually means to “give up your right to be right.” Have you gotten into any recent arguments where the other person just had to have the last word? They would not listen? The apostle Paul suggests to “let them have their way.” Just be wronged. Don't waste time trying to be right or trying to get even. Is there someone you would like to get even with? Can you tell Jesus about the matter instead and see what suggestions he has for you?**

**Kindness – Lots of times older people are disrespected in our culture and are not treated kindly. Is there an older person in your family or neighborhood to whom you could show God's kindness?**

**Goodness — Goodness is different from kindness in that it often involves saying “no!” to wrong behaviors. Have you been peer- pressured lately or do you expect to be pressured in the future? What can you say “no” to that will demonstrate goodness?**

**Faithfulness — Sometimes we have to believe in order for God to help us. In what circumstances right now do you need help? How can you show your faithfulness?**

**Gentleness – Do you ever feel like yelling, kicking, screaming, throwing a toy, or punching a wall? Some say if you LOWER your voice instead of RAISING it, you will**



**get more attention. To whom can you lower your voice, someone who generally makes you want to raise it?**

**Self-control – Often the things that come out of our mouths are ugly. Think of a time lately when you said something ugly. Say what you should have said then, using self-control.**

**The verse says that “against such behavior, there is no law.” That’s an old-fashioned way of saying that God will be very happy with you and will bless your life. So let’s all put in our best efforts to remember these fruits and work toward showing them!**

## FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT CRAFT

---

# FRUIT PICKING

Nine fruits is a lot for students to think about, but this craft will help them focus in on a couple. Have students pick two or three of the fruits to reproduce in play dough and discuss what it means to bear those fruit. The activity can give kids a plan for the weeks ahead, where they focus and cultivate fruit in their lives.



### MATERIALS:

---

- See the list of play-dough colors needed in the Lesson Materials
- 8 ½ x 11 poster board or heavy card stock, one sheet for each student
- Markers
- Craft glue
- Stapler

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Pick two or three fruits that you would like to recreate for yourselves.
2. On top of your poster board, you can write MY FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT.
3. Do your creations on top of the poster board. Glue them down using a small dab of craft glue in a line under the title. Do not glop the craft glue, as it will not dry and will defeat the purpose of holding the pieces in place.
4. Under the fruit, identify it. Pick one of the nine Fruits of the Spirit that you would like to focus on this week for each fruit you created. EXAMPLE: PATIENCE.
5. Under each fruit, write some examples of how you can demonstrate that fruit in your life. An example would be PATIENCE: Not yelling at my sister. Paying attention to my homework and not wanting to get out of it. (And so on.)

### CONCLUSION:

---

**Let's keep our fruits in a visible place at home and remember to try to do the things we wrote down. While Jesus is doing the work in us, we can be mindful and give him every opportunity to help us become fruitful!**

# MEMORIZATION GAME FOR FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Kids have the best chance of working on producing the Fruits of the Spirit by memorizing them. This easy game of tossing a play-dough ball and repeating a fruit will have all nine fruits in students' heads after a few easy rounds.

### MATERIALS:

---

- Ball of play dough
- A list of the nine Fruits of the Spirit

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Have students stand in a circle.
2. Give one student the ball of play dough
3. Have everyone repeat the first three fruits a few times: Love, Joy, Peace
4. Have the student with the ball say “love” and randomly toss the ball to another student. That student must catch it and say “peace” and pass it randomly. The third student must say “joy” and pass the ball randomly.
5. When someone misses the ball, the students must say “love-joy-peace-love-joy-peace” until he returns with it and is ready to speak his word and pass it.
6. Repeat 10 or so times.
7. Move on to the next three words: forbearance, kindness, goodness. Repeat the game 10 or so times.
8. Put the two rounds together, having students repeat love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness several times.
9. Have students do the toss using all six fruits.
10. Move on to the last three words: faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Repeat the three-word round then try to hook them together with the first six.
11. Have students toss the ball and repeat the nine fruits in this round.

## CONCLUSION:

---

**At first, it was easy to “drop the ball,” wasn’t it? But the more we practiced, the better we got at throwing and catching...and learning something very important. What are the nine fruits again?**

Let them repeat.

**Now that we know the fruits, let’s try not to “drop the ball” in our real life. Let’s ask God to bring them to mind when we need each one! And let’s do our best to show our good fruit in Christ.**

# JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE



Jesus used the metaphor “bread of life,” aware that it would be chock full of meaning for us. This lesson using slices of bread made from play dough –and a loaf of real bread - will help kids see a number of ways that Jesus fortifies our lives. It will also work into a very fitting snack of miniature peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches if you want it to!

## **MATERIALS:**

- A loaf of real bread
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Spreading knife

- Serving plate
- Paper towels
- White, brown, and purple play dough
- Rolling pin

## **PREPARATION:**

---

### **To make play-dough bread slice:**

1. Using white play dough, shape a piece of bread. If you have a regular piece of white bread from a loaf, you can accurately shape where the sides of the bread go in and the top arches around.
2. Roll out the brown play dough until it is flat.
3. Use the spreading knife to cut it into a long strip, only as wide as your slice of play-dough bread.
4. Wrap the strip around the edges of the bread to create the crust, then roll the rolling pin over the slice to blend.
5. Use pink or purple play dough on the butter knife for jelly.

### **To make real sandwiches:**

1. Make peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches and cut them into quarters. Make enough so that each student can have two quarters.
2. Put the quarters on a serving plate, and put it out of sight for now.

## **SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 6:35, 40, 51**

---

**Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

## LESSON:

---

Have your play-dough bread set up on the teaching table. Have your real loaf of bread beside it. Hold out your play-dough slice. **Jesus said he is the bread of life. What did he mean by that?** Let them guess.

**Obviously, he didn't mean that he wanted his followers to run up and start taking bites out of him when they were hungry.**

Hold your play-dough slice out closer to students.

**Would any of you like to eat this slice of play-dough bread? It looks like it ought to taste pretty good! What do you say?** *Ew, no.*

**Just like we don't want to eat play-dough bread, Jesus did not want us eating his arm or leg. Describing himself as "bread." Does anyone remember what type of expression this is?** *Metaphor*

**While using play dough in these lessons, we are talking about different themes of spiritual growth in Christ. For Jesus to say, "I am bread," he is making a *spiritual* statement. He is *spiritual* bread. He is also implying something that we can do *spiritually*, though not physically.**

**First, let's talk about real bread. And do to so...let's use real bread!**

Pass out your peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich quarters, giving two to each student.

**What are some good things that real bread does for us when we eat it?**

As students take a few bites, let them name some things:

- *It tastes good*
- *It fills you up when you're hungry*
- *It sends nutrients, like wheat and flour, through your body*
- *It gives you energy to work and play*

**How can we relate this to eating "spiritual" food? What are some things we can do that will feed us spiritually, like real bread feeds us physically?**

- *Read the Bible*
- *Pray and listen for God's voice*

- *Hang out with people who love Jesus and listen to them*

**Have you ever heard someone referred to as being “spiritually hungry?” What does that mean?** *It means a person yearns for God in his or her life. It means they are very interested in learning more about God.*

**Satisfying our spiritual hunger—reading the Bible, praying, and being with people who like talking about God—this is what Jesus was talking about.**

**He calls himself the “bread of life.” If we do things to stay close to him, he will give us “spiritual” nutrition. He will fill our “spiritual hunger” and make us feel “filled up.” He will fortify us with spiritual “vitamins” or spiritual “nutrition.” Those would be things like peace, hope, and love. What other good spiritual virtues can Jesus fill us with?**

*Triggers: patience, empathy, discernment, gratitude, vision, faith, kindness, gentleness*

**Jesus’ bread of life is just as real as the bread on the table. Let’s remember to eat our spiritual food this week—with prayer, reading, and learning!**



# PLAY DOUGH PB&Js

By making the bread of life into a play-dough PB&J, kids can discuss some of the “nutrients” God can give us if we spend time with him. The peanut butter and jelly make good metaphors for the Trinity, which can also make for fun discussion!



### MATERIALS:

---

- See the “To Make the Play Dough Bread Slice” section of the Materials List from your lesson and duplicate these for each student
- Toothpicks

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Follow the Preparation instructions from the lesson to create the bread slice.
2. Roll out purple and brown to make the peanut butter and jelly.
3. Using a toothpick, write in the jelly: “I AM THE”.
4. Write in the peanut butter: “BREAD OF LIFE.”

### DISCUSSION:

---

**When Jesus said he was bread, what did he really mean?** *He could give us all the spiritual nutrition we need.*

**How do we get the bread of life?** *Accept Jesus into our hearts, spend time speaking with him, reading the Bible, and listening to others talk about him.*

**What did Jesus mean by “I will raise him up on the last day?”** *It means we will go to heaven on the last day of our lives. What will happen in heaven?* *We get to live with Jesus and have lots of fun and see others who died before us.*

# FIND THE BREAD MEMORY GAME

Kids have to watch carefully in this sleight-of-hand game involving balls of play dough. It will teach them how they have to watch carefully in order to find the Bread of Life, and not some imposter-filler!

### MATERIALS:

---

- Four different colors of play dough, including brown
- Eight identical plastic cups *that are not see-through!*

### PREPARATION:

---

1. Roll the play dough into balls: two each of the four colors, including brown. That will give you two brown, two red, two yellow, and two blue, for example.
2. Hide each ball underneath a cup. The aim of the game is to find the “bread” (the brown balls).

### OBJECTIVE:

---

This is a matching game, so finding matches is important. But the object is to be the first to find both brown balls.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

- 1. Line the balls up on a table in random order. Let students observe where each one is. It’s better not to have them lined up in pairs unless you have very young students.**
- 2. Cover each ball with a cup. Begin to move the cups around as in the sleight-of-hand shell game. Move them for at least 15 seconds for older students, five seconds for younger students.**
- 3. Have one student pick two cups. See what he uncovers.**
- 4. If he has found both brown balls, he automatically wins the round. If he uncovers a match of some other color, he gets one point, and the balls are taken away. If he uncovers two that don’t match, he doesn’t get points and the balls are covered again.**

5. Unless someone has found both brown balls, continue with these cups and balls, allowing other students, one at a time, to try for a match.
6. When all the balls are taken, the round ends.
7. Repeat this as many times as you wish or have time for.

## **CONCLUSION:**

---

**It wasn't always easy to find the brown "breads of life," was it? You may have thought they were in one place, and it turns out, you weren't watching closely enough. Your mind wandered!**

**This game is a lot like real life. Jesus said he is the bread of life, and if we want to grow spiritually, we should be ever mindful of the spiritual nutrition he offers when we spend time with him. But we lose focus. We think he's somewhere, and he's not there.**

**If we want the bread of life, we need to walk the walk of faith. That means paying attention and always looking for God's will in a situation. Can we try very hard this week to do that?**

# WHEN WE ARE LIKE LOST SHEEP

## MATERIALS:

- Black and white play dough
- Toothpicks
- Toy farmhouse (optional)
- Green construction paper

## PREPARATION:

1. Roll three large balls of white play dough.
2. Pinch around each to make them look fluffy or wooly.
3. Form three little black balls and gently form them into faces.
4. Affix one black head to each sheep.
5. Press little white and black balls into flat circles for eyes and press them against the faces.
6. Make little strips of black for the ears and press them to the tops of heads.
7. Use toothpicks cut in half for legs.
8. Place the sheep on the green construction paper to look like grass, and if you have a toy farmhouse, add it.



## SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 15:1-7

**Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**

**Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and**

says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

## LESSON:

---

Have two of your play-dough sheep on the table. Hide a third one somewhere, like in the cabinet. Sit down and gasp.

**Oh no! One of my sheep is missing! What happened to it? Does anyone see it?**  
Encourage the kids to look around.

**Oh my! I hope it didn’t get squashed. What if I dropped it in the parking lot and someone stepped on it? Or took it and made something else? Poor sheep!**

Pretend you hear calling. **Did anyone else just hear that bleating?** Have everyone listen. **I think it’s coming from...over here!**

After looking around, bring the sheep back to the table, very relieved. Pet it and hold it in your hands. **Hi sheep! You gave me a good scare! I thought you were dead! I am so happy to see you!**

**Would you like to go back with the other sheep now? I thought so.** Put it back with the other sheep and shake your finger at it. **Now, please don’t wander off again. This is a dangerous world! You could get crushed if I weren’t watching you!**

**Let’s talk about lost sheep. This was a story Jesus told to religious leaders. Religious leaders in the days of Christ were very powerful and very proud. Jesus was always after them about how they were too heartless and vain. He was telling them a story about sheep because they were turning up their noses at the people Jesus was preaching to. They thought that tax collectors and sinners were not good enough. Let’s go over again what Jesus said:**

Take your favorite sheep and walk it across the table. **Suppose you have 100 sheep and one of them gets lost.**

Mime the sheep to bounce a little and cry, **“Uh-oh! Help! Help! I’m lost!”**

Walk your fingers across the table from the flock of sheep to the lost sheep.

**Doesn’t the shepherd leave the 99 in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?**

Mime fingers talking: **Sheep! Sheep! Where are you?? Don’t stay lost!**

Mime the sheep: **Baa! Baa!**

Mime the fingers: **Oh! Whew! There you are!**

Put the sheep into the palm of your hand and take it back to the flock.

**And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.** Move your palm over to the flock and gently put the lost sheep back.

**Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” Hooray!**

**Have you ever lost your pet? Has your dog ever gotten out of the backyard, and you thought he’d been stolen and was gone forever? What steps did you take to get him back? *Run up and down streets. Went with Mom in the car, calling his name.* Did you ever lose your hamster in your room and be afraid the cat ate him or he got outside? What steps did you take to look for him?**

**Do you remember how you felt when the pet turned up again?**

**Describe how you felt. *Relieved!***

**This is the same type of feeling that God gets when one of his children starts to “wander away” from our faith. Sometimes people will cease to pray. Then they’ll cease to read their Bibles. Then they’ll forget about God! Then suddenly, they find themselves in real trouble!**

Walk the sheep away from the flock again.

**“Help, God, help!” they cry. “I have all these overwhelming problems! Why did I wander off from you? Now what do I do?”**

**Often, when people wander away from God, they are ashamed of themselves. They are afraid to speak to God. They feel he will be mad at them or even that *he caused their problems!* They think he will say, “You wandered off. You were bad. Now, go solve your own problems!**

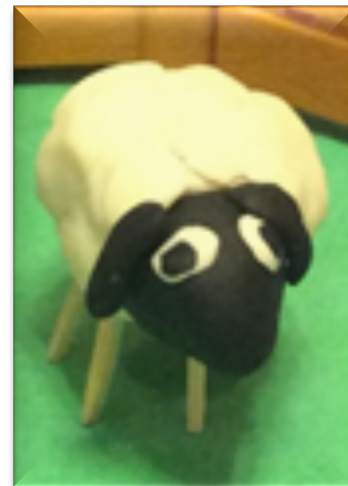
**But here’s what Jesus is saying: *God may be disappointed in what we did, but he loves us...like we love our missing pet--only times a thousand. And he wants us back!***

Pick the sheep up and put him back again.

**When you do something wrong, or if you wander off from your faith, don’t be afraid to talk to God. Just tell him straight-out what you did. He will be so happy that you came back! God always focuses on getting us to him and keeping us with him. The easiest way to solve your challenges is to call out and get back to him as quickly as you can!**

# CREATING OURSELVES AS SHEEP

Luke 15:1-7 is not the only place that Jesus refers to his followers as sheep and himself as a shepherd. In John 10:27 he says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” As this Scripture has brought comfort to a great many who were unsure of God’s guidance, we will focus on it during this craft.



### MATERIALS:

---

- See the Lesson’s Materials List for making sheep and reproduce for each of your students.
- Toothpicks

### PREPARATION:

---

- Cut the toothpicks in half before the craft or away from students to avoid flying splinters.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Create the sheep according to the Lesson Instructions.
2. Before posting the sheep’s body onto the four half-toothpicks, take up a toothpick and write on his back: I WILL FOLLOW JESUS

### DISCUSSION:

---

**Jesus said, “My sheep know my voice.” Does Jesus speak to us aloud? No. So what does he mean by “my sheep will know my voice?”** *We know right from wrong in our hearts, and as Christians, it speaks quite loudly to us.*

**If we are going to follow Jesus, life often involves making the decisions that he wants us to make. For example, he may want us to pursue a specific sport or musical training so that we meet the right people or learn something close to our gifts and**

**talents. How do we hear his voice in these much more challenging circumstances?**

*You pray a lot and listen and ask others to pray for you and with you.*

**Let's say you feel God leading you to take up a certain sport. Does that mean your team will win a championship, or even a lot of games? No. What are some of the things Jesus wants you to learn when he leads you like this?** *Sportsmanship, patience, persistence, working on a team, strength, endurance, sacrificing for others. There are a lot of things to learn besides how to win!*



## LOST SHEEP PLAY DOUGH GAME

---

# FIND THE LOST SHEEP

This easy, yet fun, game involves a sheep from your lesson today. Your students will learn another great lesson—discernment—as they try to guess who is lying and who is telling the truth about the sheep’s whereabouts.

### MATERIALS:

---

- One sheep from today’s lesson

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Bring two students to the front of the room, facing their classmates with their hands behind their backs.
2. Have the other students put their heads down.
3. Put the sheep into the hand of one of the students standing in front.
4. Have the other students put their heads up.
5. They must take turns guessing, just by studying facial expressions and their own intuition, which student is holding the sheep.
6. After all other students make their guesses, reveal which student had the sheep. Whoever was right gets one point. Students who were wrong do not get points.
7. Repeat, until everyone in the class has taken a turn being the people up front.
8. Whoever has the most points after everyone has had a turn wins. Note: You can also announce a winner for the best deadpan face among the sheep holders!

### CONCLUSION:

---

**We have just gone through many lost sheep. They were not always easy to find! Sometimes, when we get lost, it is not easy for Jesus to bring us back. But he always accomplishes that, if we ask in faith. Let’s ask Jesus this week to keep us close to him—and close to the herd, which is our Christian friends. That way, we may never get lost, and he won’t have to find us!**

# FAITH LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

## MATERIALS:

- Mustard seed photo (next page)
- Play dough in blue, brown, green, yellow, and pink
- Green and blue construction paper
- Putty knife or butter knife

## PREPARATION:

1. Using green and blue construction paper, make a sky and grass.
2. Make a sea by rolling out blue play dough and cutting wave shapes into it, using the butter or putty knife.
3. Place the waves along the seam of the blue and green construction paper.
4. Roll out brown and green play dough to make the trunk and treetop.
5. Cut out the shapes.
6. Using little pink balls of play dough, arrange some berries on the tree.
7. Make a large yellow triangle to represent a mustard seed pile.
8. Make three little toys out of molds or cookie cutters.



## SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 17:5-6

**The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”**

**He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.”**

## LESSON:

---

Have your mustard-seed pile, mulberry tree, sea, and three little toys made from molds in front of you in a line.

Hold up your mustard-seed pile. **This is not a play-dough mustard seed. This is a pile of hundreds of mustard seeds!** Show them the picture on the next page:

**A mustard seed is so tiny that it's about the same size as a grain of pepper. Yet Jesus says that's all the faith you need to do incredible things.**

**He says, "If you say unto this mulberry tree...be ye removed and cast into the sea..."**

Move the mulberry tree slowly through the air and put it in the sea.

**It will happen...with only a mustard seed of faith! Faith has long been said to "move mountains."**

**So why, then, do we pray, and often it seems like nothing happens or something worse happens? Was Jesus not telling the truth?** Let them discuss.

**One of the reasons we do not get the answer to prayer that we want is that we are asking for the wrong stuff.**

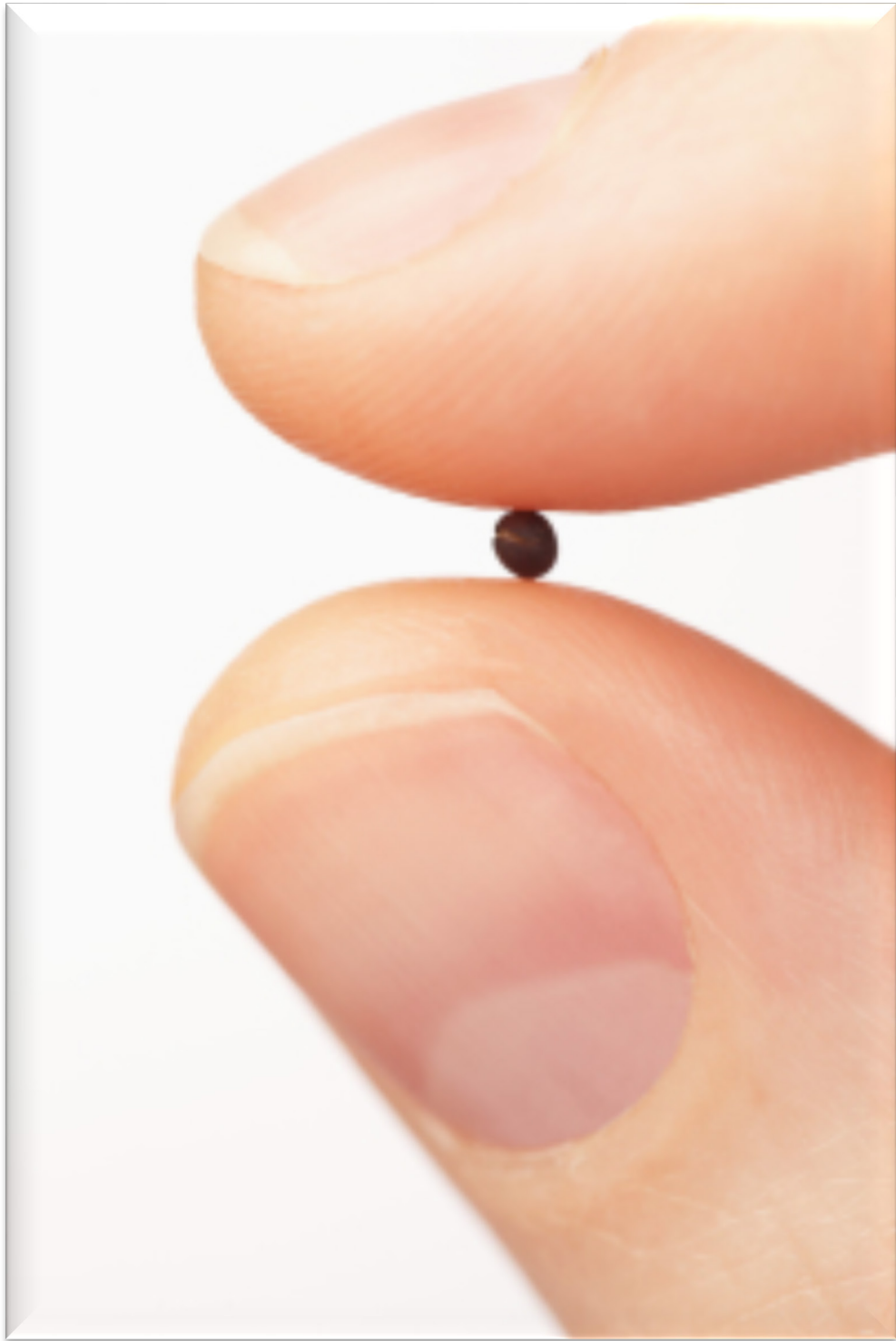
Bring the three little toys in front of you.

**Have you ever asked for a toy because a friend had it and it made you want it so badly?** Take answers. **God wants to give us things. But he doesn't want us to covet other people's stuff. And he doesn't want you to follow the crowd. If he feels we're jealous of them, he might deny you.** Squash the first little toy.

**Have you ever wanted something because you thought it would make you look cool?** Squash the second toy. **God doesn't want you to be cool, most likely. The Bible says that in the kingdom of heaven, the first will be last, and the last, first. He wants you to be good.**

**God won't give you something he feels will make you vain or mean to others or selfish. Other people can act that way, and they do all the time. But if you belong to him, he cares too much to allow that to happen.**

Squash the last toy. Roll all three of them in a ball together.



*Photo from MeAndMyMustardSeed Wordpress Blog*

**A mustard seed of faith will bring people forgiveness. It will increase the size of their hearts. It will make those blind to the Gospel suddenly see it. It will increase your patience, endurance, faith, hope, vision, and it will make you...**

Flatten the ball in your hand, flatten it, and form a heart.

**...a mustard seed of faith will make your heart very loving. Let's all remember how powerful God is, but at the same time, keep in mind what to use our faith for. Our prayers will be answered like mulberry trees flying into the ocean...and our love of all people will grow strong.**

# MULBERRY TREES FLYING INTO WATER

Students will have fun creating their own version of mulberry trees flying into water...with the hope of it reminding them of the sorts of things they should be praying for and not praying for!



### MATERIALS:

---

- Play dough in brown, green, red, blue and black

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. Make a tree trunk and then a treetop with some red fruit on it. Place a black knot in the tree trunk if you wish.
2. Create water out of a blob of blue play dough.
3. Hang the tree upside down in the water.
4. Fashion waves, and create fish jumping.

### DISCUSSION:

---

**We can ask with a mustard seed of faith for things like justice. If we see a Christian being abused for his faith, we can say, “God, bring justice to that person.” Have you ever seen anyone taking heat because they are Christian?** Let them state any examples.

**We can ask for things, but we can’t always ask to have them in a certain time period. If we don’t see justice brought to a person like that overnight, why might that be?** *God might be teaching him endurance. Also, Jesus said if they persecuted the master, they will certainly persecute his followers, so expect some of this. Jesus might be hoping some of the people doing the persecuting will have a change of heart. We should hope for the same.*

**We can expect to see justice, though sometimes it takes months or years. What other things can we ask God for, knowing that he will say yes?**

# CASTING MOUNTAINS INTO THE SEA

See how good your students' aims are as they try to cast play-dough mountains into the sea. They may learn a thing or two about how faith works.

### MATERIALS:

---

- Six balls of play dough, the same size
- Masking tape
- Bucket

### PREPARATION:

---

1. Place the bucket on a clear playing floor.
2. Create six masking-tape lines on the floor—one three feet away from the bucket, one four feet away, one five feet away, one eight feet away, one 10 feet away, and one 15 feet away if you have room.

### INTRODUCTION:

---

**We just learned that Jesus said, if someone has faith the size of a mustard seed, he can cast a mountain into the sea. Let's pretend these balls are mountains and the bucket is the sea. See how many you can get in the bucket, and we'll discuss the importance of this afterward.**

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. **Have a student stand behind the line closest to the bucket and try to toss in a ball of play dough into it.**
2. **If he succeeds, have him move back to the next line and try again.**
3. **He can keep moving back, so long as he got the ball into the bucket on the previous try.**
4. **If he misses the bucket, he's out, and another student gets a turn.**
5. **Students collect one point for each bucket in the round.**
6. **The person with the most points wins.**

## CONCLUSION:

---

**We just cast a bunch of mountains into the sea, didn't we? Our efforts to get balls in the bucket are a lot like our lives when we have to exercise faith. In the game, we had to have focus. We had to keep our concentration. Our goal got harder as we went along.**

**When we are exercising faith, we have to focus on God and on what we are asking of him. We can't lose hope or concentration on him. Once we've exercised faith for little things, we will be able to exercise it for bigger or tougher things. Let's remember to stay in God's will and to love him. That way, when we ask for something, it will be like casting mountains into the sea!**



# THREE GREAT RECIPES FOR HOMEMADE PLAY DOUGH

---

Making play dough is not difficult and is quite economical. We are including below three recipes that can serve various needs. First, we have the standard recipe for making play dough that parents and teachers have used for decades. However, this requires cooking the product in a saucepan, and if heating doesn't appeal to you, there follows the standard uncooked recipe. We are also adding the Kool-Aid Play Dough recipe. Some moms say it is easy to get too wet; however the colors come up unusual and vibrant.

Take your pick. Or if time doesn't permit, just go buy it at the store!

## STANDARD PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

---

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 cup cold water
- food coloring

Mix the dry ingredients together, then add the wet ingredients. Mix well. Cook over medium heat until the dough holds together and is slightly clearer in color. Knead the dough a few times as it cools.

## UNCOOKED TRADITIONAL PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

---

- Bowl
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 cup salt
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- Tempera paint or food coloring
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

**DIRECTIONS:**

---

In a bowl, mix together the water, salt, and oil. Gradually add tempera paint or food coloring to give the dough a bright color. Gradually add flour and cornstarch until the mixture reaches the consistency of bread dough.

Store covered.

---

**KOOL-AID PLAY DOUGH FROM FAMILYEDUCATION.COM**

---

- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 cups water
- Saucepan
- Food coloring, tempera powder, or Kool-Aid powder for color
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 2 tablespoons alum

**DIRECTIONS:**

---

Combine salt and water in saucepan and boil until the salt dissolves. Remove from the heat and tint with various Kool-Aid flavors. Add the oil, flour, and alum. Knead the dough until it is smooth.

(Note: This dough will last two months or longer.)