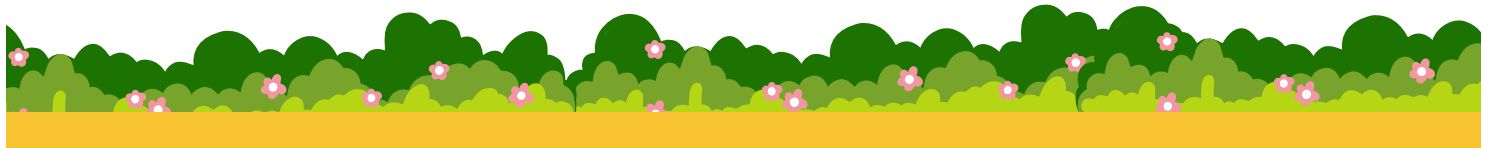




CLASS IN THE GARDEN



CLASS BOOKLET EXTRAORDINARY GARDEN



Class in the Garden

Here, a review of the main teaching and visual material will be done, with words appropriate for the age group, and the questions will be discussed. To enrich the teaching, the series of questions can be done using a basket with the questions on papers inside, and children can take out a piece of paper and answer the question on that paper.

LESSON 1

WHEN GOD CREATED YOU...

He did so with love and care. You are a perfect creation of God, because all of His creation was good. Each one of us is a unique creation, and that uniqueness is what makes us special. As today's story reminds us, God created male and female, and although the world may try to convince us otherwise, His word tells us that only these two sexes exist. Whether you are a boy or a girl, you are a perfect creation. There is nothing wrong with you, and God has created you with a wonderful purpose.

He gave us the breath of life and the ability to relate to the world and to those around us, as well as to live in a close relationship with Him. Just as a garden is made up of many elements—such as grass, flowers, soil, trees, seeds, and insects—that together form something beautiful, so too are you an important part of your family, community, and church. You are unique and special.

At times, you may have felt worthless or incapable, or found yourself in situations where you were made to feel excluded or unimportant. However, as creations of God, we are valuable and deserving of love, respect, and care. We must acknowledge and thank God for life and all its blessings. We must also care for and respect His creation, including our bodies, by eating healthy and exercising, and by taking care of our minds; sharing our feelings. By distancing ourselves from what hurts us or causes emotional harm, and by caring for our spirit we are recognising our need for God and living in a close relationship with Him through prayer, reading His Word, and attending church. In this way we honour the life He has given us. We are beings capable of loving ourselves by showing care and compassion towards who we are, and in doing so, we care for God's wonderful creation.

You are unique and special, created for a wonderful purpose!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do you think the influences of the world make us feel less special?

Although the world imposes standards of popularity, we must remember that we are children of God. If He created us the way we are, it is because we are perfect in His design.

If Jesus lived in our time, do you think He would have a social network? What do you think He would share on it?

Jesus did not care about being like everyone else. He was controversial because He did not remain silent and boldly shared the will of the Heavenly Father, even when others became angry. If Jesus lived in our time, He would not be concerned with fitting in. He would care about pleasing God even on social media.



LESSON 2

Imagine you are a gardener, and your heart is a garden. What kind of plants would grow in your garden? Would they be real, healthy plants, or fake, wilted ones?

In life, it is easy to try to appear as someone we are not, to put on a mask in order to impress others. However, God calls us to be authentic, to be ourselves without fear of what others may think. Just as a garden needs to be watered and cared for in order to grow, our hearts need to be nourished through God's Word and prayer so that authenticity can flourish.

A biblical figure who stands out for his authenticity is David, the second king of Israel. David maintained his integrity even in difficult situations. When he had the opportunity to kill Saul, his enemy, he refused, because Saul was God's anointed. He did not follow the advice or pressure of his men, but chose instead to obey God, regardless of what others thought of him.

Despite becoming king, David saw himself as a servant of God and humbled himself before Him, recognising that he deserved nothing and that he was completely dependent on God. David was also a man of integrity in both his words and actions. As today's story reminds us, although he sinned and committed a serious wrong, he ultimately acknowledged his mistake and repented.

David was authentic because he was honest, transparent, upright, humble, and willing to be vulnerable. His authenticity enabled him to be an effective leader for his people to be a remembered man and a great hero of the Bible and an authentic man. David maintained a close relationship with God, and it was God who helped him remain authentic.

In the same way, God calls us to be authentic, to be ourselves, and to be imitators of the only One who was perfect that is Jesus. We do not need to be, or look like, a friend, singer, or celebrity admired by the world. It is enough to be ourselves, because when we maintain a close relationship with God, we are able to live authentically, and that is pleasing to Him.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When David was authentic, was everything going well in his life?

No, many things did not go well in David's life. He experienced persecution from Saul and was surely frightened, fearful, and saddened by the envy he had aroused in him. Even so, David was not afraid to do what was right.

Have you ever tried to be like everyone else out of fear of not fitting in?

Many times, we find ourselves in situations where it seems there is no way out—where we feel pressured to be or do what others do in order to fit in. However, those who truly love you will accept you just as you are.



LESSON 3

DO YOU FEEL INADEQUATE... or doubt that you are the right person for a task or challenge?

Moses was a man who felt inadequate and did not believe he was suited to lead the people of Israel. He was aware of his weaknesses; Moses had a stutter and, like all of us, many flaws. Yet God chose him and called him to be His instrument to free His people from slavery in Egypt.

Like Moses, we may sometimes feel inadequate or doubt that we are right for a particular task or challenge. However, God chooses us and calls us to be His instruments in this world. Remember that God has chosen you and called you to be useful in His work. Do not rely on your own abilities or strengths, but on God's grace and power.

Trust that God will equip you and guide you along the path to which you have been called. And if you ever ask yourself what God has chosen you for, you will come to realise throughout your life that it is for many things. Yet now, as a child of God who has accepted Jesus as Saviour, your most important mission is to share the Good News with others, so that they may come to know Jesus just as you have.

God will guide you in this, because all of His children are chosen. Ask God to give you the grace and strength to move forward and to persevere in your calling, just as Moses did.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is it right to feel inferior?

The Bible teaches that we should have a humble perspective, recognising our limitations and weaknesses, but we should not feel inferior (Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20).

If I feel inferior, am I humble?

No. Feeling inferior can lead to insecurity, lack of confidence, constant comparisons, unhealthy competition, and low self-esteem. True humility is different. It is the acknowledgement of our limitations that draws us closer to God and helps us rely on His strength, cultivate gratitude, and show love to others (James 4:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

LESSON 4

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW PLANTS GROW AND GROW STRONG?

Plants need water, sunshine, and nutrients to develop. In the same way, our faith needs nourishment to grow and strengthen. Joshua, Moses' successor, was reminded in Joshua 1:8 that he needed to feed on God's Word in order to lead Israel. God's Word is the spiritual food that gives us strength and direction, while prayer is the irrigation that makes this seed germinate in our hearts.

Like Joshua, we need to meditate on God's Word day and night so that we can face life's challenges with faith and courage. Joshua did not only receive God's Word; he also put it into practice. Through his obedience, he conquered the entire region, and his faith was strengthened.

If we want to grow in our faith like Joshua, we must feed on God's Word and nourish ourselves with prayer. Then we can confidently say: "I am a child of faith, growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." May the Word of God be our guide, and may prayer be our strength. May we be like Joshua, leading with faith and courage, for the glory of our God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If I don't have faith, is it enough to ask God for it?

The Bible teaches that faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9) and that we can ask Him to give it to us (Matthew 7:7-8). Faith is not something we can generate through our own strength or effort, but rather a gift from God. Seek communion with God through prayer and reading the Word.

Why is the Word of God and prayer important for growing in our faith, like a plant in a garden?

The Word of God is like food that gives us strength and direction, and prayer is like water that makes our faith germinate, helping us face challenges with courage, like Joshua.

LESSON 5

JOSEPH FACED YEARS OF SLAVERY AND IMPRISONMENT. However, each challenge brought him closer to his divine purpose, and he eventually became Egypt's second-in-command, responsible for saving many people from starvation. Despite these hardships, Joseph maintained his faith in God, which enabled him not only to survive, but to thrive in the midst of trials.

In a garden where many different flowers grow, one stands out: the lotus flower. Born in murky, muddy waters, it rises to the surface and blooms in all its splendour. This process reminds us that, even in adverse circumstances, we can overcome challenges and shine brightly. Like the lotus flower, our true beauty and potential can emerge from difficult times. Our trials can become the means through which God transforms us and makes us extraordinary.

Like Joseph, never stop dreaming and trusting that God has a plan for you. Remember that difficulties are temporary, and that God can use every situation for your good. Just as Joseph helped his family and many others in Egypt, look for ways to help those around you. Your extraordinary impact begins within you.

Want to be extraordinary? Start by:

1. Seek God and his purpose for your life.
2. Develop your skills and talents.
3. Serve others with passion and dedication.
4. Persevere in the midst of challenges.
5. Be authentic and true to your values.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What if I don't feel extraordinary?

God says you are, because He is your Creator (Genesis 1:27). God loves you just as you are. Your identity is found in Christ, your worth comes from being a child of God, your strength is revealed in weakness, and your purpose is found in God's plan.

What does the world call extraordinary today?

To the world, being extraordinary often means professional success and achievements, wealth, fame, physical beauty, recognition, success in sports, travel, and similar accomplishments. However, it is important to remember that God's definition is very different. Unlike the world, God values the heart, faithfulness, obedience, love, and humility above all else.