# INTRODUCTION

The Green Page of *The Wordless Book* gives basic truths to help the saved child grow in his walk with God. Growth in the Christian life takes a lifetime—little by little, every day, walking with God.

To help children see the importance of walking with God and the role God's Word plays in growing, children will hear the **growth narrative** lesson of Josiah, who at the age of eight became king and then later discovered the long-lost scrolls of God's Word. Children will see how God's Word changes their hearts and lives. The elements of this lesson focus on Christian growth, but a Gospel Spotlight is also included for those children who may not yet have trusted Jesus as their Savior. Be sure to include this teaching in the club hour.

The following concepts should be clearly conveyed during the club hour:

- **Bible:** Effect on me—God's Word changes my heart.
- **Bible:** Instructions for life—God speaks to me through His Word. He shows me what I need to know.
- **Bible:** Getting to Know God—I can know God better through the Bible. I can spend time thinking about what I read in God's Word.
- **Jesus:** Jesus is the only way to God.
- **Man:** Knowing and Loving God—God wants me to know and love Him.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series are available at cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc

# SMALL GROUP TIME

**"Green Things Competition"** (Optional activity)

We're going to have a competition with the other small groups to see how many green things we can name. I'm going to write them down and we'll count them when we're done and see which group has the most. *(Have children quickly call out things that are green, writing them down as they say them. At the end of small group time, tally the results and compare to the rest of the small groups to see who named the most green things.)* This activity may help you guess what our color of the day is—the color of the last page of *The Wordless Book*!

**Materials**
Paper
Pen

# WORD UP!

**"God helps me grow!"**

Do you know how tall you are? *(Allow several children to share, then share how tall you are.)* I will probably stay this tall because I'm grown up, but you all will keep on growing for several years until you become adults. Growing can be exciting and also challenging—especially when you need new clothes or bigger shoes. God is so amazing! He made your body to grow—from being a tiny baby inside your mom all the way up to how tall He knows you will be when you're an adult. But God also made you to grow in a different way if you've believed on Jesus as your Savior. He wants you to grow to be more like Jesus! We're going to talk about that today. Say with me, **"God helps me grow!"** *(Say with children.)*

**Materials**
Word Up! Booklet
*(See* GNC *Resource Pack.)*

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement, **"God helps me grow!"** Tell them anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless, or just anytime!

If you want to add actions to the Word Up!, point up with both hands when you say "God helps." When you say "me grow," jump up and spread arms out like a tree.

# LESSON

## INTRODUCTION

Have you ever forgotten something important? Maybe you forgot to do a chore or meet a friend. What did you do when you realized you had forgotten? *(Allow responses.)* Whenever you forget something or do something wrong, it's important to do what you can to make things right. That's a part of growing up.

**Materials**
*The Wordless Book*
*(See* GNC *Resource Pack.)*

Today we are going to finish the true story of *The Wordless Book*.

**Slide 1**

The last page is the green page. *(Show Green Page.)* It reminds me of things that grow—things like grass, flowers, and trees. Once you have received the Lord Jesus as your Savior, He wants you to grow to know Him better. This page reminds us that as you grow to know the Lord Jesus better, you'll grow to be more like Him. Listen closely and see if you can hear at least two ways to grow to know God better.

## PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

**Slide 2**

**Preschool Activity**
Have preschoolers shake their heads and say, "They did not follow God."

God's chosen people lived in the countries of Israel and Judah. They had many kings over many years but most of the kings were evil and did not follow God. They did not care about the one true God who had created them. They did not work to keep the temple (the place where people came to learn about and worship God) in order.

The people let the temple get run down and lots of things needed to be fixed. In all the mess they lost God's Word! The kings didn't care at all about what God said. They worshipped idols (statues of wood or stone the people had made) and things God had made like trees, rocks, and animals. The people chose to worship idols or the things God made instead of the one true Creator God. They chose to ignore God and His Word. That was sin.

**Preschool Song**
"I Believe the Bible" vv.1-5



Sometimes you and I choose to sin—to ignore God. You sin when you do things your way instead of God's way. *(Read Ecclesiastes 7:20.)* No one on Earth goes God's way all the time—you and I have sinned. Sin keeps you from being with God—knowing and loving Him. But that's why God in His great love sent Jesus, God the Son, to Earth—to take your punishment for sin. Jesus willingly died on a cross, not for anything He did wrong, but for your sin and mine. *(Read 1 Peter 3:18a.)* Jesus died for your sin so you could have a close friendship with God. Jesus was buried, and on the third day He came alive again. He did all of this for you. He wants you to believe on Him so you can have a friendship with God and go God's way in your life instead of your way. When you believe that your way is better than God's and you ignore God, it is sin.

The kings of Israel and Judah were sinning because they ignored God and His Word. They did not care about obeying Him.

One of the kings who ignored God was Amon *(AM-muhn).* When he died, his son Josiah became king. Josiah was eight years old and became the king! Stand up if you are eight years old. *(Allow response then have them sit down.)* Even though he was so young he knew it was important to love and obey God. He was not like the other kings of Judah. The Bible says King Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. When he was older—about 26 years old—he gave an order to fix God's house—the temple—that the other kings had destroyed.

**Preschool Activity**
Have children count to eight with you. Ask if any of them have an older sibling who is eight years old.

### Slide 3

King Josiah's men were working on rebuilding God's house. They had to tear some things down and rebuild other things. Hilkiah, one of the religious leaders, made an amazing discovery. *(Read 2 Kings 22:8.)* "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord," he exclaimed. The book of the law is another name for the first five books of the Bible. It was written on scrolls, which were large sheets of paper rolled up. They had found a treasure! One of the things God taught in those books was how His people should live. It was exciting for Hilkiah to find these important books. Everyone show me how you would react to something exciting. *(Do with children.)* Because other kings before Josiah did not care about God's Word, no one had read it in a long time, not even the priests who were supposed to lead God's people in worshipping Him. Over time God's laws were completely forgotten. No one knew how God wanted them to live. But King Josiah wanted to follow God. God knew this and led Hilkiah to find His Word.

**Preschool Activity**
Bring in some blocks and let children build a structure as you talk about rebuilding God's house.

**Preschool Activity**
Make a scroll out of paper and hide it in the room. Have children see if they can find it and when they do have them all say, "I have found the book of the law!"

### Slide 4

God wanted King Josiah and His people to know about Him. They knew they found something important! Right away they took the scroll to King Josiah and read it to him. When the king heard the Word of God, he realized they had been living their own way, against God. Back in those days if someone was very upset or sad, he would tear his clothes to show others how he felt. That's exactly what Josiah did. Once he heard about how they were disobeying God, King Josiah tore his clothes in great sadness and repentance. Josiah knew they needed to change and be sorry for how they had been living. Josiah was willing to change his ways and obey God. Reading God's Word helped him to know the changes God wanted in his life.

**Preschool Activity**
Have children look very sad.



If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, **God's Word has the power to change you and help you grow.** Do you live like you know Jesus? Or do you live like the rest of the world? Do you use bad language, bully others, or destroy things that don't belong to you? Do you love the world or things in the world more than God? The Bible says, *(read 1 John 2:15).* You live like God's love is not in you when you make anything more important than God. Maybe you spend too much time watching TV or playing video games and very little time with God. That may be something God wants you to change. You may have a bad habit that you know God wants you to stop. It may be the things you say, the way you pick on your brother, or the way you easily get angry and yell at others. You may even like doing it. It can be hard to live God's way. You cannot do it on your own.

**Preschool Song**
"Hear God's Word" v.1

**Materials**
Word Up! Booklet
*(See GNC Resource Pack.)*

**Slide 5**

Say with me, **"God helps me grow!"** *(Say with children.)* When you hear the truth of God's Word, you will get to know God better and He will help you change and grow.

**Slide 6**

Reading God's Word made it clear to King Josiah that he and the people in Israel needed to change.

**Slide 7**

**Preschool Activity**
Lead the preschoolers around the room. Have them wave and pretend to call people to come and meet at God's house.

King Josiah sent out an announcement for all the people in Jerusalem to meet at God's house. Everyone from the most important person in the kingdom to even the littlest child came to hear God's Word. Josiah stood in front of them and read out loud the whole book of the law they had found. He promised to keep God's laws and to obey everything found in God's Word. For the first time these people heard the truth about who God is and how they needed to live their lives.

**Preschool Song**
"Hear God's Word" vv.1-2



When we hear or read God's Word, we learn what God is like and how to live His way. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, **God's Word has the power to change you and help you grow.** Maybe you see areas where you are not growing in your life with God. Instead, you talk and act like someone who doesn't even know Jesus as Savior. God can help you grow and change to be more like Jesus.

**Slide 8**

Say with me, **"God helps me grow!"** *(Say with children.)* The word GROW can help you remember ways to get to know God better. "G" stands for go. God wants you to go to places where you will learn more about Him from the Bible and meet people who love Jesus and can encourage you to love Him more. Church, Sunday school, and *Good News Club* are places you can do this. "R" stands for read your Bible and pray. If you haven't already, set aside time each day to read God's Word and pray. As you read God's Word, God the Holy Spirit will help you understand it and will also help you see the areas of your life that need to change. Praying is talking to God. He wants you to talk to Him every day! "O" stands for "obey." It's not enough just to read the Bible; you need to do what it says. "W" stands for "witness." A witness tells something they know to be true. Someone who witnesses for Jesus tells others the Good News that Jesus died for their sin. All of these things will help you grow and get to know Jesus better, like our memory verse talks about. *(Quote 2 Peter 3:18 with children.)* God wants you to grow to be more like Jesus. As you read God's Word you will learn what God is like and how to live His way.

**Materials**
Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
*(See GNC Resource Pack.)*

**Slide 9**

As King Josiah's people listened to God's Word they heard the truth about who God is and how they needed to live their lives. What do you think the people did when they heard God's Word? *(Allow response.)* They made a promise to God. They promised to follow God's ways with their whole lives.

Sometimes it can be easy to make a promise to change but never change. Would these people change?

## CLIMAX

**Slide 10**

To show they were serious about their promise, the people burned all their idols. They would only worship the one true God from now on.

## CONCLUSION

The people in Jerusalem changed how they lived. Hearing and obeying God's Word had changed their lives.

## CHALLENGE



If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, **God's Word has the power to change you and help you grow.** If you have been living like someone who doesn't even know Jesus, remember God can help you change and grow to be more like Jesus.

**Slide 11**

Say with me, **"God helps me grow!"** *(Say with children.)* Will you GROW: G—go to church, R—read the Bible and pray every day, O—obey God's Word, W—witness by telling others about Jesus? As you do these things you will change and grow to become more like Jesus. *(Quote 2 Peter 3:18 with children.)* Next week you can come back to club and tell us what you are reading in God's Word and one way you are growing to know God better.

## INVITATION



Maybe some of you have never believed on Jesus as your Savior. It is through God's Word that you can know who God is and what He is like. God's true Word tells you about your sin but also about Jesus, who took your punishment for sin. *(Read John 5:24a.)* God's Word was written so you can know who Jesus is. He is God the Son who came to save you from sin and give you new life in Him—everlasting life. When you believe on Jesus—trust completely in who He is and what he did for you—you will have a friendship with God that starts now and will last forever. Will you believe on Jesus today? Please close your eyes. If you are ready to believe on Jesus today please show me by looking up at me. You may all open your eyes. If you looked up at me or have questions about what it means to believe on Jesus, meet me *(designated time and location)* and I will show you some promises from God's Word about having everlasting life.

**Preschool Song**
"Hear God's Word" vv.1-2

**Materials**
Word Up! Booklet
Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
*(See* GNC *Resource Pack.)*

**Preschool Invitation**
When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use Acts 16:31 and "believe on" terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing on Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.

**Caution, teacher!**
You have to be certain that the children are not led to believe that the words of a prayer or coming to speak with you saves them. They need to know they are saved only by putting their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The invitation is the time during club when you invite or urge the children to put their faith in Christ and let them know you are willing to meet with them to answer questions and show them from the Bible what it means to believe on Jesus.