

THEME OUTLINE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the “Grow” theme outline! This special document is all about growth and what it means for us as Christians. You see, growth is an important part of our lives. It’s about getting wiser, stronger, and more loving as we follow God and learn more about him.

Inside this document, you’ll find some Bible verses that talk about growth. They show us what we need to grow spiritually, how we can grow, and how God will build his kingdom. It’s amazing to see how growth can make a big impact on our lives and the world around us!

We really hope this “Grow” theme outline is helpful and brings you joy. It’s meant to inspire, make you think, and start conversations about growth with your friends and family. As we go through this journey together, let’s open our hearts and minds to the wisdom in the Bible. It can help us become the amazing people God wants us to be.

So, let’s have fun exploring and discovering all the awesome things about growth! It can do incredible things in our lives and help us fulfill the special plan God has for us.

BIBLE VERSES



*‘Let your roots **grow** down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will **grow** strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.’*

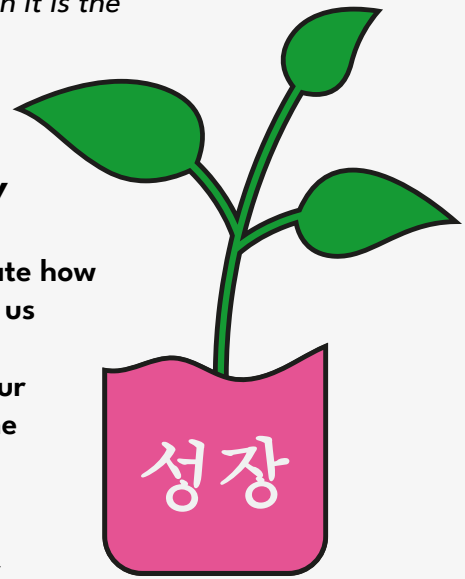
- Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

Just as a tree needs strong roots to grow tall and bear fruit, we too need to anchor ourselves. God’s love and truth are our nourishment to flourish in every aspect of our lives. By embracing God’s loving and transforming work within us, through his Holy Spirit, we will grow into a life of fulfilment and purpose. And the final result? We will overflow with thankfulness!

'He told them another parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it **grows**, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

- Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV)

Jesus told the parable of the mustard seed to illustrate how the Kingdom of God can grow. The little story shows us that seemingly insignificant beginnings can lead to remarkable expansion. Just like the mustard seed, our faith, actions and smallest contributions can have the potential to have a significant impact and change in this world.



'Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.'

- John 6:1-15 (NIV)

Feeding of the 5000, support verses



Did you ever think a little child could be the start of a miracle that would feed more than 5000 people? Probably not. In this story, Jesus demonstrates the truth about generosity and allowing Jesus to use what we have (sometimes literally!) in our hands: he will multiply it! In the Kingdom of God, even the most insignificant resource can result in abundance! Are we willing to share what we have to serve others? Jesus challenges us and promises that he can turn the smallest gift into unimaginably more.

*'Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵Instead, we will speak the truth in love, **growing** in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts **grow**, so that the whole body is healthy and **growing** and full of love.'*

- Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)*

We all want to grow; physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This Bible verse helps us to understand that focusing on Jesus will support our growth by inspiring us to become more like him. We can grow in our love and service for God and others. But growth is also about teamwork. We are part of God's family and His Kingdom, we are not alone. We need each other to grow! We all have been given a special gift to use in serving and supporting others in their growth.

* This verse is also used in the material called 'Grow', that The Canada and Bermuda Territory has created. This material is meant for girls in the age of 12-17 and is available in English and French. Some of the material can be used for mixed groups too. Please, visit <https://salvationist.ca/womens-ministries/grow/> to see the leader's guide, training videos, and Grow curriculum. The material is outstanding and worth checking out!