

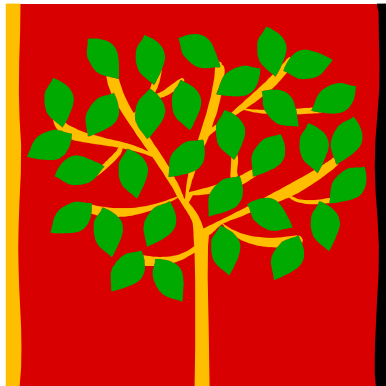
Trees

This unit of study has been designed for use in conjunction with other Beacon Media resources:

Themes for Christian Studies Levels 6 & 7: God is Life

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Trees

God is Life

Things you must know about trees:

1. Trees give out oxygen to the air.
2. Leaves make their own food. They need carbon dioxide and sunlight and soil and water.
3. The parts of the tree – roots, trunk, branches, leaves.
4. Trees are of great value because they provide homes for animals, windbreaks, fresh air, wood for fuel, wood for building, shade, coal, special oils, food for animals and people.
5. You can tell how old a tree is by looking at the rings on the trunk.
6. There are two main types of trees – deciduous and evergreen. Deciduous trees lose their leaves to prepare for winter.

Next level of mastery:

1. A plant makes food in its leaves through photosynthesis. For this it needs sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. The chlorophyll in the leaves make oxygen and food. The food is sap, or sugar that you see in the trunk.
2. Sap and water flow down the trunk. The trunk has a pump system a bit like our veins and arteries.
3. Leaves grow on an angle to catch maximum sunlight.
4. Different trees are suited to different climates. Gum trees like hot, dry climates; pine trees like cold and snow; tee tree likes sandy salty soil; mangroves like swamps.
5. New trees grow when seeds are scattered. Birds, other animals and wind help to do this.

Activities:

- leaf pressing
- collage
- make a poster showing parts of the tree and animal homes
- leaf classification
- classification of nuts and fruits
- explore ways of recycling paper
- measure around the trunks of trees

Trees

God is Life

What does a tree need?

1. Did you know that trees can teach us about God? A tree is very strong, but it needs a constant supply of certain things from God's creation in order to stay strong.

Draw a picture of a tree and show how it needs the following things:

Sunlight

Nutrients from the soil

Air

Water

2. Sometimes, when there is a serious drought that goes on for a long period, a tree can die. A tree can also die if it gets too much water. If an area becomes flooded, and water surrounds the roots for a long time, the tree will die because the roots cannot get air.

To stay alive, a tree must have a constant supply of the life-giving resources from God's creation.

What does a tree need to stay alive?

What happens when a tree does not get the things it needs?

3. Jesus told us that as Christians, we are like trees. In order to stay alive in our relationship with Jesus, we must stay connected to Him. Jesus gives us the things we need.

Jesus is the living water. A tree needs water. We need the living water to keep our relationship with Him alive.

Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4.

What is special about the water that Jesus gives? (verse 13)

4. Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. A grape vine is a kind of tree. We have to stay connected to the strong part of the grape vine. Jesus is the strong part of the vine. When we stay connected to Him we will have eternal life.

Read about the Jesus, the Vine in John chapter 15. What do we have to do to stay healthy in our relationship with Jesus? (verse 5)

What happens to those who do not stay connected?
(verse 6)

What kind of life is Jesus offering?

5. Psalm 1 says, “Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men, who do not follow the example of sinners. Instead they find joy in obeying the law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like the trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do. “(GNB)

What do you think the water in the stream represents?

What are the benefits of having your roots on the bank of the stream?

6. Psalm 92:12-14 says, “The righteous will flourish like palm trees; they will grow like the cedars of Lebanon. They are like trees planted in the house of the Lord, that flourish in the temple of our God, that still bear fruit in old age, and are always green and strong.”
(GNB)

Name two trees mentioned in these verses.

What are the benefits of being planted in the House of the Lord?

Parts of a tree

1. Make a drawing of a tree big enough to fill half a page. Write the names of all the parts. Use arrows. Here are the names of the parts jumbled up. The letter in bold type is the starting letter.

ktrnu torso velesa ch**br**naes rak**b** gwit

2. There are some parts of the tree that we only see sometimes. Here they are, jumbled up.

rfiti _____

sntu _____

taumun _____

r**ber**sei _____

ures**sm**m _____

The leaves

The leaves have a special work to do. They make _____ for the tree. They use _____ and _____ and a special gas from the air to make sugar. We can see this sugary food on trunks sometimes. It is called _____. It looks like _____. The leaves have another important job to do. They give out oxygen to the air.

Missing words:

Water sunlight sap syrup food

The roots

The roots have a special work to do. They hold the tree in the _____. They also take water from the ground and send it up to the _____. The leaves need water to make _____.

Missing words:

Leaves food ground

The trunk

The trunk has a special work. It carries _____ and _____ up and down the tree. It has little _____ that act like the _____ in our bodies.

Missing words:

Water tubes sap veins

The branches

The branches have a special work. The leaves

_____,' _____
and _____ grow on them. They
must be _____.

Missing words:

Strong nuts fruit flowers

Fruits

The Jewish people have a festival each year to celebrate the fruits produced by their trees. When a tree matures it produces its first fruits.

Jewish people give thanks to God each year for the first fruits of the trees of Israel. These fruits are oranges, raisins, figs, dates and carobs.

The festival is called Tu B'Shvat. They recognize the importance of trees by planting new trees planting in the desert areas. The children are told this story, to help them understand how important trees are. Here is the story:

The king was riding through the countryside, when he noticed an old man planting a tree.

“What are you planting?” he called.

“A carob tree,” replied the old man.

“How long will it be before your tree bears fruit?”
asked the king.

The old man shrugged his shoulders. “Maybe
seventy years,” he replied.

“And how old are you?” the king said.

Seventy years old,” was the answer.

“Do you expect then, to eat the fruit of that tree you
are planting?”

“Oh no!” answered the old man.

“But I when I was young there were many fruit trees
and plenty of fruit for me to eat. The trees were
planted by people in the past. So I plant trees, so
that my children’s children may eat fruit too.”

Who created the first tree?

God wants us to tend and care for his creation.

That means making sure there are plenty of trees in
the world. That means planting trees.

More Activities

Make a poster of different fruits that grow on trees.

Make a poster using this acrostic for the word LIFE.

Illustrate the poster with a tree design.

Living for Jesus

Inviting others to know Him

Faith in God

Everlasting life

Test

1. Trees give out _____ to the air.
2. Leaves make their own food. To do this they need carbon dioxide, sunlight, and soil and _____.
3. Name four parts of the tree: r _____, t _____, b _____, l _____.
4. Give two reasons why trees are useful.

5. There are two main types of trees: deciduous and _____.

Next level of mastery:

6. A plant makes food in its leaves through photosynthesis. The chlorophyll in the _____ makes _____ from carbon dioxide, water and _____.
7. Sap and _____ flow down the trunk.
8. Leaves grow on an angle to catch maximum _____.
9. Different trees are suited to different climates. Name one tree and the type of conditions it likes to live in.

10. How are seeds scattered? _____ and _____

Answers:

1. Oxygen
2. Water
3. 3. roots. trunk. branches. leaves
4. Trees provide homes for animals, windbreaks, fresh air, wood for fuel, wood for building, shade, coal, special oils, food for animals and people.
5. evergreen
6. leaves, food, sunlight
7. water
8. sunlight
9. e.g. palm tree – tropics; gum tree – dry conditions; pine tree – snow
10. birds, other animals and wind