



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SITE [30 MINUTES]


Seed Scavenger Hunt



 **Eco-Question:** Why do people plant seeds?

 **Spiritual Question:** Why does God plant seeds?

 **What will kids do?** Kids collect neighborhood seeds and return for seed observations. (Stay-put option provided.)

 **Why is this activity important?** Seeds are all around us. They are unique in many ways, just as we are unique. We can spread God's love in our neighborhoods and communities in our own special ways.

DAY 1

Get Ready

- containers to gather seeds (clean ice cream or yogurt containers with lids, or tote bags)
- seeds for kids to observe (from your neighborhood and beyond)
- scrap paper and pencils or crayons for sketching
- magnifying glasses (optional)
- books about seeds (optional)

Get Set (Up)

Prepare containers and lids or bags for collecting seeds. Before kids arrive, walk around the collection area to see what seeds are available. Set aside a few seeds to show when introducing the activity. If time and space allow, display a wide variety of seeds, from your neighborhood and beyond, and picture books showing plants and seeds in various stages. **Indoor option:** If a neighborhood walk isn't possible, ask kids to find seeds you've hidden around the room.

Go Green!

Welcome kids to the Community Activity Site. Tell them today they will be seed scientists, exploring the neighborhood for many varieties of seeds and returning to the “lab” to look over their collections.

Lift up a few seed samples for kids to see. **How many different types of seeds are in our neighborhood? What kinds of seeds have you seen or know about?** Show seeds they mention, if available. Don’t worry about correct names today; focus on observation skills.

Talk about safety expectations: as you walk, talk, gather seeds, and observe, it is important be careful. Remind kids to tread lightly (think about other living creatures they may not see) and only pick seeds off the ground. Removing seeds from the plants at this time may mean they won’t grow next year.

Pass out containers and head outside with curiosity and wonder! Walk around the church neighborhood, observing and discussing tree and plant life. Find and collect seeds. If indoors, kids hunt hidden seeds within the activity site.

After 5-10 minutes, return to activity site, lay out the seeds, and pass out magnifying glasses. Encourage kids to get up close and share ideas about size, shape, texture, color, and whether the seed is made up of single or multiple parts. Invite kids to sort seeds into groups (small, medium, large; smooth, rough; color; and so forth). Do any look exactly alike?

If time allows, encourage kids to sketch their favorite seed. Ask kids to help clean up, then gather around the seed groupings. Praise them for their job collecting seeds from the neighborhood or community. **How were some of the seeds the same? How were they different or special? Just like there are many seeds with special differences, we can spread God’s love in different and special ways. God’s love is a seed in each of us.**

Move to Act!

Invite kids to hold one seed and think of one way they can plant the seed of God’s love in their neighborhood. Prompt connections to community service, such as helping a neighbor carry groceries or cleaning up a local park. With young kids, celebrate simple answers such as, “I can help” or “I can be a friend.” Thank kids for participating and say, **“I thank God for the possibility in each one of you! Let’s smile and remind ourselves as we leave, God’s love is a seed in me!”** Kids point to a friend and say, “AND YOU!”

greenER:

Use backsides of bulletins for seed sketches.

greenEST:

Don’t throw away the seeds! Return neighborhood seeds to the outdoors. Have kids plant other seeds in a planter for a mystery garden.

Leader Tip

Using a scientist’s tool is an exciting responsibility. Magnifying glasses help kids stay focused. Offer clear and positive expectations before they’re in hand. (For example, hold your magnifying glass with care. Keep your magnifying glass close to your own body.)