

Take Action: Growing in the Lord Game

Players collaborate to build onto a vine or discard potential growth by choosing whether a statement belongs in the vine (the Lord's kingdom) or should be cut off or pruned. The underlying goal is to help students reflect on daily choices they are making.

Important Note to Teachers

Review the game statements before teaching. Many statements are included so that you can select the ones that will work best for your group. Feel free to omit some statements and/or add your own.

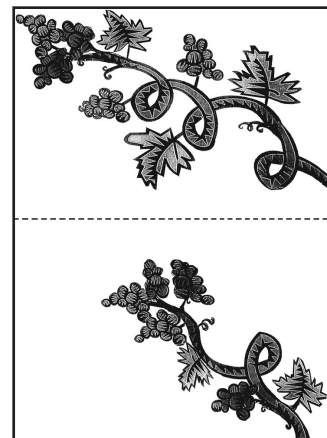
Supplies Needed for Group

- Open space to play the game: large wall, floor or even the back of a door
- *Growing in the Lord Game Statements* for the teacher (see following pages)
- Vine game pieces (see following pages)—You may need up to 70 vine pieces if you choose to have students answer all of the questions. Print or copy as many pieces as you think you may need. Note that you will only need one root piece. *Hint:* save resources by printing on the back of scrap paper.



Preparation Needed Ahead of Time

- Read through all the game instructions.
- Trim the blank edges off the vine pieces using a paper cutter or scissors. Then cut all the pieces except the root in half. *Hint:* stack pages and cut once.
- Lay out the root piece where you intend to have your vine “grow” before the game.
- Shuffle the other game pieces and put them face down in a pile. Check to see that the first piece is *not* an end piece (a vine that does not continue off both ends of the page). If it is, put it at the back of the pile.



End Pieces

Playing the Game

1. The teacher chooses a player to go first.
2. The student picks up the top branch piece from the pile and turns it over.

3. The teacher reads one of the *Growing in the Lord Game Statements* to the student.
4. The student considers whether the statement reflects a behavior choice that belongs “in the vine” or should be “cast out”. During the consideration process, students may discuss what they are thinking with other group members. Most of the statements are not obviously “right” or “wrong”. Real life situations are often complicated!
5. If the student determines that the statement belongs “in the vine”, he or she connects their branch picture to the vine “growing” from the root. But if the statement should be “cast out”, the player discards the piece on the floor to show that it has been “cut off.”
6. Play then passes to the next student, and the process is repeated.
7. Players may add their pieces to any available end, and vines may grow in any direction. Once a student picks up and adds an end piece, the branch it is added to is finished. Students may continue to build on open ends of the vine.
8. The vine is complete and the game ends when all of the branches are completed or when all the pieces are used up.

Growing in the Lord Game Statements

1. You are left out of a game. You are scared other kids will make fun of you because you’re not very good at it, but you ask to join in.
2. You use rude words to impress your friends.
3. Someone bumps into you. You are angry but choose to ignore it.
4. You exercise regularly so that you will be the strongest person in your school.
5. Some boys are chasing a scared animal. You join in.
6. You see someone looking at a rude magazine. You are curious but look away.
7. You divide food to share with a friend and offer your friend the bigger piece.
8. You agree to come right home after school but later friends ask you to study with them. You go home instead.
9. While you are hurrying to school you hear a 9 year-old calling a 5 year-old mean names. You ignore the incident so that you can get to school on time.
10. Your friend is in a bad mood and yells at you. You yell back and tell him he is being mean.
11. Your friend is in a grumpy mood and takes it out on you. You quietly tell her that you know she is upset but that it hurts your feelings when she is mean.
12. Friends are talking about the problems of a mutual friend. You join in so that you can share something that only you know. After all, you all care about each other.
13. Your parents insist you go to bed at a certain time because of an important event the following day. Just before this time a friend phones you with a serious problem. You stay up to help your friend.
14. You are left out of a game. You are scared other kids will make fun of you because you’re not very good at it. You go home and read a book instead.

15. You find something valuable that your sister lost. You want to keep it but choose to give it back.
16. Someone's clothes have fallen open. He or she has not noticed and would be embarrassed. You feel uncomfortable for the person but can't help staring.
17. You are in a store and see something small that you want. No one is looking. You take the item.
18. Someone you dislike is walking past you. You put your foot out to trip him.
19. It is rainy and cold. You see an older person struggling to carry heavy things. You stop and take time to help.
20. You offer someone help. He rudely tells you he doesn't need your help. You feel irritated at him for rejecting your offer.
21. Two people are angry. One hits the other. You cheer them on to fight.
22. A driver causes an accident and drives away. You report what you saw to a police officer.
23. You feel that a teacher has been unfair to you. You spend the rest of the day thinking about nasty things you would like to say to her.
24. You secretly give someone a note that thanks him for helping you.
25. You feel sad for no apparent reason. You choose to go for a run even though you'd rather sit and mope.
26. You see two people fighting. You try to stop them.
27. On a Sunday, going to church is more important to you than anything else.
28. You are having trouble remembering how to do something on a test. You look over and accidentally see someone's answer. You write it down.
29. You haven't studied for a test. You decide it's not a problem if you fail.
30. Your friends are saying mean things about someone. You choose to defend him or her.
31. Math is hard for you. Without asking your teacher, you put a program in your calculator to solve problems for you.
32. You help a friend with her homework and give her all the answers.
33. Your assigned science partner always relies on you to do the work. You are upset. It is unfair.
34. You forget to do your homework and tell your teacher that you have forgotten it.
35. You are late for school and make up a false excuse.
36. You forge a note from a parent so your teacher will let you go home early.
37. Someone phones your house and asks for your brother. You lie that he isn't there because you're angry with him.
38. Non-swimmers are not allowed to go on a boat ride. You cannot swim. You want to go so badly that you say you are a strong swimmer.
39. You borrow something and forget to return it.
40. You borrow something, and it gets ruined. You tell your friend that you are looking for it and don't know where it is.
41. Your mother expects you to help with the dishes. You make the excuse that you have too much homework and can't help.
42. You hate someone because he never lets you have your way.

43. A teacher often praises one student in the class. You hate him because the teacher never says anything nice about you.
44. You are jealous of someone who always has new clothes.
45. You make the most of classes at school so that you can be a more useful person.
46. Spending time with your family on Sunday is more important to you than going to church.
47. Your mother doesn't accept your point of view on something you care about. You are angry with her.
48. You accept your mother's decision not to let you go out with a certain group of friends. Her guidance has proved helpful in the past.
49. You read the Word for a few minutes before the exciting novel you are enjoying.
50. By the time you have finished reading an exciting novel in the evening it's too late to read anything from the Word.
51. Someone you know uses the Lord's name in vain. You tell her that you wish she wouldn't do that.
52. Someone does something that you know is wrong. You tell him he may go to hell.
53. Every night you say a prayer to the Lord.
54. Everyone says that a girl in your class is a terrible person. You try hard to think well of her.
55. You tell your parents you are doing homework, but you are really talking to your friends online.
56. You make a phone call using someone else's phone without permission, telling yourself that it won't matter because it doesn't cost anything.
57. Your friend's email is open on her computer. You look away to avoid seeing something that is not your business.
58. You are concerned about looking your best. You take so much time getting ready for church that your family arrives late.
59. You hear someone taking the Lord's name in vain. You feel you are better than him because you wouldn't say anything like that.
60. You see two people fighting. You go to get help.
61. You exercise regularly because good health will enable you to be a more useful person.
62. Your friends are saying mean things about someone. You walk away.
63. You thank someone who goes out of her way to help you.
64. You break something valuable. You confess.
65. You are rude to your father.
66. You work hard to feel content with your old clothes even though you would like something new.
67. You work hard in school so that everyone will think you are the best.
68. You are told to clean your room. You push everything under the bed. It looks good.
69. You make friends with someone so you can swim in his family's pool.
70. Your mother is listening to the radio. You turn it off without asking her.

