



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL  
WEEK 4



# FULL BLOOM

BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF  
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

2 PETER 3:18A (NIV)

JESUS MAKES  
ALL THINGS NEW.





Wow, it's our last week at Full Bloom! I hope you've had a blast exploring all these fantastic gardens—from the very first Garden of Eden to that fantastic forever garden we'll walk in with God someday!

Throughout our time together, we've learned a lot about Jesus—why we celebrate Easter and how he's the one God sent to be with us, to get us, and to make everything awesome again. And guess what? Because of Jesus, we can stay connected to God.

Have you been enjoying our garden tour? We went from the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve used to walk with God, but because of their disobedience, they could not stay in the garden anymore. They lost their connection to God. But God cared about Adam and Eve and all humans. God had a plan. God sent Jesus—God's own son—to earth to become human himself.

Even as Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking if he really had to follow through with God's plan, he chose to bear all the pain and suffering for the world. Jesus died a horrific death on the cross but three days later rose again! He showed God's power and love once and for all, especially to make all the broken things new. Now there was a way to be connected back to God!

After Jesus died, the disciples were scared. They hid away in a room and wondered if they were in trouble for following Jesus. But after Jesus came back to life, he showed up to the disciples.

They were probably even more scared, but Jesus talked with them and calmed them. Then, he told them about this great gift God was leaving with them—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would be an important helper for what the disciples did next.

But not all of the disciples were in the room when Jesus appeared. Thomas was missing. So when the other disciples told them what they had seen, he couldn't believe it. He wanted to see for himself.

Jesus showed up so Thomas could be a part of this experience. He helped Thomas feel connected and a part of the new world Jesus was forming. When Thomas saw Jesus, he immediately believed what was happening, and Thomas had a new connection with God.

We weren't in the room with the disciples that day, but Jesus showed up in our lives to help us get connected back to God. Once we believe in Jesus, we get to join in the story and step into God's garden, where only the best things are in full bloom!

In John 15:1-13, Jesus tells his disciples that he was like a vine and that they were like branches. When they stayed attached to Jesus, they could grow fruit like these grapes! These were once attached to a vine, but a farmer cut them off of the vine so we could eat them.

They had everything they needed to grow when they were attached to the vine. The vine helped connect them to other grapes and gave them a safe place to grow together. That's what Jesus does for us!

Jesus tells us if we want to grow in our faith, we'll need to stay close to him. The closer we stay to Jesus, the bigger our faith can grow! We just need to follow the things Jesus told us to and love each other like he loved us.

We can grow in our faith because Jesus connects us to God.







## Scripture/application

- Why were all the disciples locked in a room?
- Why do you think Jesus appeared a second time to his friends?
- Read John 20:29.
  - Who are the people "who have not seen and yet have believed?"
- Read John 15:5.
  - What type of fruit do you think Jesus is talking about here?
- When are times you feel disconnected from God or find it hard to talk to God?
- Who can you talk to, or what can you do to reconnect to God?
- How can you encourage a friend who feels disconnected from God?



### Spring Suncatchers

Beautiful things can happen when we remain in God. These sun catchers can help remind us of the ways we can remain connected to God's light. Whenever we do, we get to see God's light reflected in the world around us.

For this activity, you will need paper plates, clear adhesive shelf liner, flower petals, small leaves, and yarn or pipe cleaners. Prep your craft by cutting out the center circle of each paper plate. Help kids place some shelf liner on the back of their paper plates. Then, have kids arrange some petals and leaves in the center of their plate on the sticky side of the shelf liner. Once they have finished, place more shelf liner over the petals and leaves, sealing them between the two layers of liner. Punch two holes at the top of the plate and tie off some yarn or pipe cleaners in the holes to finish the sun catcher.



### Connect The Daisies



Use the provided printable. Color each flower or use color version. Cut them out. Provide one-inch strips of dark and light green construction paper, and help kids glue the ends together and loop them through to make a paper chain necklace. Once completed, they can glue their daisies throughout their chain however they'd like. Scan QR code for a worked example.

This daisy chain reminds us that we are connected to each other because we are all in God's family. Aren't you glad **Jesus connects us to God?**



"HE ROSE"

GO KIDS MUSIC

"ONE, TWO, THREE"

YANCY







