Rooted in Love

Age Group: 7-16,

You will need a plant, a scissors, and some baby food jars or small clear vases. CUT 5" long pieces from the plant. Then ask them what the little branch must feel Like being cut off from it's source of life. (Maybe some of you have felt like that...lonely and afraid?) If we do nothing the little bit of plant will surely die, dry up and blow away.

BUT if we put it in a little glass with some water it Will grow new roots and grow into a big healthy plant. Put the children's names on their plant and in about Two weeks help them plant them in potting soil. (Miracle Gro does not pay us but we really like their soil.)

The Bible verse we have chosen for this activity is Ephesians 3:17 "you have been rooted and grounded in love" There are however MANY verses that go well with this activity, verses about our feelings as well as verses about salvation and the new birth.

The Bible lesson we like best is that Jesus saves us from much more than our sins, he saves us from ourselves and Our feelings. If you are feeling lonely, afraid, angry or any other difficult feeling Christ died to save you from that, to walk with you through it, rooted and grounded in his love. Most importantly perhaps is the idea that Christ would much rather save us BEFORE we sin than After we sin. Wouldn't you like Christ to save you from your feelings so they do no lead

It is difficult to see the roots in this picture but they are there. This plant is a coleus and works very nicely. Other plants you might try are listed below.

You to sin. He does this in many ways, sometimes he uses bible verses, sometimes with the COMFORT of the Holy Spirit, sometimes by the love and prayers of people in your church.

You might lead your child (group) in a **prayer** something like this: "Thank you Jesus for your love. Thank you that you care about all our problems. If we have sinned forgive us/me and Keep me from sinning again. Mostly God save me from myself, from my feelings so that I can share your love with others and we all may be rooted in grounded in our love for you and for one another.

Other plants to try: Ivy, Swedish Ivy, Moses in a boat, wandering jew, purple heart, purslane, Baby tears, Christmas Cactus, etc. If in doubt ask at your local greenhouse.