**Thursday – Plants**

* **WELCOME**
* **SONG: Allelu, Allelu . . . .**
* **Section one: God creates Plants:**

Mark reviews what has been taught so far . . . .

Mark turns to the table with a box on it [inside the box are various vegetables & fruits], and says, “Today we are going to see some very healthy things that are soo good for us . . . . . and I’m sure you will love them ALL! Are you excited?

Let’s see if you can guess what each one is?

And we can see which ones you like!

Vegetable & fruit examples:

1. Parsnip

2. Pear

3. Carrot

4. Plum

5. Broccoli

6. Pineapple

7. Corn

8. Melon

9. Banana

10. Orange

These are just a few examples of a huge variety of vegetables and fruits for us to eat. They are so tasty and so healthy for us too.

And let me show you some of the most amazing plants in the world too:

**[SLIDE 1 – Amazing Plants]**

Aren’t they beautiful and amazing. They can give us so much joy to look at them . . . . and to smell them.

Let’s read what the Bible says about how God created vegetables, plants & trees, in the first place .

**[SLIDE 2 - shown Genesis 1v11]**

What did God say it was like . . . . “And God say that it was very good!”

**[SLIDE 3 - show Genesis 1:31]**

**‘SWING – O – METER’**

Now let’s see where we should be on our ‘Swing-o-meter’. Remember from yesterday

It says:

**Made – Broken – Fixed**,

Where do you think it should be pointing now?

*[Take suggestions]*

That’s right ‘made’!

*[Get the child who answered to come up and put it on ‘made’]*

* **SONG 2: Our God is a Great Big God**
* **Section two: the world is not good now**

That was great!!

**Tea lady:** Tea, tea, who’d like a cup of tea

**Mark:** Oh look, here she is again, my old friend tea lady, hi tea lady

**Tea lady:** Oh hello Mark, how are you my love, are you ready for another nice cup of tea?

**Mark:** Oh yes thanks tea lady, I’m gasping for a good cup of tea. I was just chatting to the children about God’s good creation again, and especially the amazing plants He has made and the wonderful and healthy food we can have to eat. We are so fortunate to have so much variety in our food.

**Tea lady:** Oh Mark, you make it sound so wonderful and easy. I tried growing vegetables and some nice plants! But it all went wrong.

**Mark:** What do you mean?

**Tea lady:** – Well things grow easily enough but the difficult bit is getting the right things to grow in the right place at the right time. You have to make sure that the soil is the right sort of soil for the things you’re planting, that the weather isn’t too hot or too cold or too wet or too dry when you plant!

And I know that farmers have to work so very hard when they grow things and they have to make sure that it isn’t too cold, too hot, too wet or too dry when they are ready to harvest everything. Then, there are the pests!

**Mark:**  Pests?

**Tea Lady:** Yes, you know weeds and insects that eat the plants and give them diseases! In fact I must go now, because I need to go to the garden centre to get some things to cover my vegetables, so the birds won’t get them.

**Mark:** Oh OK bye tea lady. Tea lady is right again, isn’t she? It’s not all good all of the time. In fact it’s quite a challenge to grow anything and such hard work. I hate gardening!

But it was good once. The Bible says, in Genesis, that when God made the Garden of Eden, it was wonderful and good.

**[SLIDE 4 – The Garden of Eden]**

**[SLIDE 5 - show Genesis 2:16-17]**

God said to Adam and Eve, they could eat from any tree in the Garden except the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil.

What did we see happened with Adam & Eve yesterday?

Their disobedience of God, when they took the fruit, resulted in their relationship with God being broken. And God punished them for that disobedience, with working the land. Listen to what God said – **Genesis 3v17-19a.**

**[SLIDE 6 – Consequence of disobedience! – READ Genesis 3v17-19a]**

What does the Bible call it when we disobey God . . . . SIN! When we tell God that we think we know better than him, we do the same as Adam & Eve, we SIN. That’s the phrase we have been learning to explain what Sin is - “Shove off God, I’m in charge, No to your rules!”

**[SLIDE 7 – Shove off God, I’m in charge, No to your rules!]**

And so Adam and Eve were no longer able to grow things easily, it was now very, very hard for them, with weeds, thorns and pests attacking things they tried to grow.

**‘SWING – O – METER’**

Again, Tea lady has reminded us that it isn’t all good!

Now can anyone tell me where our swing-o-meter should be pointing now?

*[Take suggestions]*

Yes that’s right on ‘broken’! – our world is broken

*[Ask child to come up and move the arrow on]*

But this is the Fix it Factory and so we’re here to think about fixing things and the question is can plants be fixed? Can we move our swing-o-meter onto fixed? Well the Bible says that we can’t, but God can and He does it through Jesus.

* **Section three: God has created a future good world through Jesus**

Well it’s a good job that God has promised to fix the world through Jesus because I am terrible at fixing things myself!

[Mr Fix it theme tune on]

**Mark:** What’s that? [Encourage the children to call for Mr Fixit]

**Mr Fixit:** Hey Mark, no fear Mr Fixit is here! Hi children.

**Mark:** Oh hello Mr Fix it. [Aside to children] I think I have told you he thinks he can fix almost anything! It’s great to see you but I think this is beyond you, Mr Fixit. You’ve not got a very good record so far this week.

**Mr Fixit:** Think positive Mark. I can do this! What needs fixing today?

**Mark:** I have this very bad Banana. Can you make it good again?

**Mr Fixit:** Let me see, where’s my ‘fixit machine’? Now let’s put it in my fixit machine and it will come out all healthy.

[Mr Fixit puts the banana in the ‘fixit machine’ and the Mr Fixit’s mending song is sung by all – “Fixit now, Fixit now, Fixit, Fixit now!” to the tune of ‘Jingle Bells’]

**Mr Fix it:** And here we are Mark ta da…

**Mark:** What a surprise Mr Fixit, it looks exactly the same! [Encourage sympathy for Mr Fix it]

**Mr Fix it:** Just wait a minute Mark! That’s just the outside, it may be perfectly fixed on the inside?

**Mark:** Well Mr Fixit. If you’re convinced you have fixed it, perhaps you would like to eat it!

[Mr Fixit takes the Banana and looks at it . . . . . then with his head bowed, very quietly and sadly walks off with the banana]

**Mark:** OK Mr Fix it, see you tomorrow.

Well, again Mr Fixit couldn’t fixit could he! It’s a good thing that God has promised to fix our broken world, including plants and vegetables and fruit, because we’re not going to be able to do it ourselves are we!

When I read Genesis and all about the Garden of Eden, I try and imagine how fantastic it must have been. But it is hard to imagine because we see so much that is horrible today.

Well God has also promised us that He is going to fix plants and vegetables forever. Listen to what the Bible says in the very last book and the promise that God makes.

**[SLIDE 8 - Rev 22v2]**

A New World, not a broken one; not a messed up one like we have seen. And the Tree of Life will be there. The tree that gives us life with God forever and ever! But not like the Garden of Eden, EVEN BETTER!

But just before we sing again we need to understand how God can make such an amazing promise. Our world is broken because of sin, so it will be fixed when God deals with sin. Well the good news is that He has already done that. The Bible says that when Jesus, God’s son, died on the cross 2000 years ago he saved us from our sin and fixed our relationship with God.

**[SLIDE 9 - show cross &1 Peter 3v18]**

**[SLIDE 10 - show ‘Separation from God’ and refer to 1 Peter 3v18 ‘to bring us to God!’]**

So although we still have to wait for it to be completely fixed, we know that if we **believe and trust** in Jesus we will one day be a part of God’s fixed world.

 **‘SWING – O – METER’**

Now where do we need to put our pointer on our swing-o-meter?

Yes that’s right on fixed!

God has promised

And we’re going to sing again about our Amazing God and what He has done in Jesus to rescue us and make everything new.

* **SONG 3: The Day**
* **QUIZ**
* **FIXIT FACTORY WORKSHOPS**
* **FIXIT FACTORY DEBRIEF**

Welcome the children back and ask them what they have been doing and have made?

* **MEMORY VERSE**

**Day 3:**

Rev 22v2 “The tree of life was on both sides of the river. Its leaves are for the healing of all people.”

* **SONG 4: Who’s the King of the Jungle?**
* **FINISH**

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**Day 1:**

Rev 21v5a The One who was sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!"

**Day 2:**

Mark 4v41 “What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

**Day 3:**

Rev 22v2 “The tree of life was on both sides of the river. Its leaves are for the healing of all people.”

**Day 4:**

Isaiah 11v6 Then wolves will live in peace with lambs, and leopards will lie down to rest with goats. Calves, lions, and young bulls will eat together, and a little child will lead them.