

IDENTITY & SELF-ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 12

SECOND CHANCES & GROWTH THROUGH STORY

LEADERS GOAL

Help students understand that mistakes help them grow.

SUPPLIES

- Tree ring worksheet
- Markers
- Bible marked and open to James 1:2-4, Romans 8:28, Philippians 1:6

SCRIPTURES

James 1:2-4
Romans 8:28
Philippians 1:6

ACTIVITIES

Tree Growth Rings

PRAY

BOTTOM LINE

Second chances help us live like Jesus

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

We have been talking about second chances and mistakes. Mistakes don't mean you're broken – they mean you're learning. Growth isn't always pretty, but it's worth it.

Ask, **Were you able to give yourself a second chance this week? How did it go?**

STORY CONNECTION

This reminds me of the friendship between Ellie, Monica, and Karl. They called themselves a “team of three.” (Script, p3) However, Ellie makes a mistake by suggesting Savannah teams up with her for the Hunt.

Choose a reader for Ellie, Savannah, Kitty, Monica, Karl beginning at “Savannah. I was just thinking.” and ending at “Don't bother!” (Script, p53-54)

Continue on Script, p63-64 with Katherine saying “You guys! Good timing!” and ending with “My best friend's hate me? What did you do?!”

Sometimes, making mistakes is annoying, isn't it? But mistakes don't mean you are broken. It means you are learning. Ellie, Katherine, Monica, and Karl were learning. Growth isn't always pretty, but it's worth it.

How were they able to mend their friendship?

Katherine says, “You guys, today I put Ellie under a lot of pressure, so if she acted like a tool – and I have a feeling she did – it's my fault. You guys are best friends. Can she be back on the team?” (Script, p74)



OUR STORIES

- Can you think of a time when growth in your life was worth it?
- Why is growth uncomfortable, slow, or painful sometimes?
- What do we learn when things don't go our way?
- What helps you to grow and make it through a situation that's hard?

TRUTH & TREASURE

Joseph's Journey – Genesis 37-50

Joseph had two big dreams and a big family who didn't like hearing about them. His brothers were so jealous that they sold him as a servant. From there, things got worse. Joseph was taken far from home, blamed for something he didn't do, and thrown into jail. It looked like his story was just mistakes, pain, and disappointment. But even in the hard moments, God was with him. Joseph grew in wisdom, kindness, and leadership. In time, he became a ruler in Egypt and fed people including his brothers who hurt him during a famine. His story reminds us that growth can be slow, painful, and messy, but God uses every part of it.

Optional video: <https://youtu.be/NQ7wLTBnF84>

Add verses to the Tree Growth Rings Activity

Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 NIV

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

Being confident in this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 NIV

DISCOVERY TIME

ACTIVITY | GROWING THROUGH WHAT YOU GO THROUGH

Joseph is a testament that our faith grows not just in easy seasons, but through the challenges and trials that shape us. Like a tree, we develop new "rings" each time we persevere — becoming stronger, deeper, and more rooted in who God made us to be.

Using the provided worksheet, students label key "growth rings" with single words or short phrases that represent a time of learning or change.

Examples: New beginnings, Setback, Faith tested, Restored, Found my voice, Letting go, Second chance.



Woven through, students can write or illustrate any of these verses:

- James 1:2-4 – “Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”
→ Discuss how growth often happens through resistance or challenge, just like trees grow stronger roots in storms.
- Romans 8:28 – “In all things God works for the good of those who love Him...”
→ Students reflect on how even painful experiences can produce something good with time and faith.
- Philippians 1:6 – “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...”
→ A reminder that God’s work in them isn’t finished yet. Every “ring” is part of a bigger story.

Reflection Prompt:

On the back, students can write a short reflection:

- “What season of my life has grown me the most?”
- “What does perseverance look like for me right now?”
- “Where can I trust that God is still growing something good?”

Weekly Challenge

This week, when something is hard, ask: What might God be growing in me right now? Journal about it or talk to someone you trust.

Remember, mistakes don’t mean you’re broken – they mean you’re learning. Growth isn’t always pretty, but it’s worth it.

PRAYER

God, thank you that you use even the hard things to help us grow. We know life gets messy sometimes. Thank you that you are with us always even if things get messy and chaotic. Help us not give up when life feels upside down. We believe you are making something good in each of us, and you promise to complete it. Amen.

GROWING THROUGH WHAT YOU GO THROUGH

