

# Abundant Life Garden Project

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Reviewed by Juniper LaNunziata

# Abundant Life Garden Project: Snapshot

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**Abundant Life Garden Project** is a curriculum that can be used for VBS or children's formation throughout the year. Its theme flows from Episcopal Relief & Development's mission. It focuses on the abundant life that God gives to creation and on sharing that life with others. The program follows the movement of the eucharistic liturgy: gather, listen, do, and go. The curriculum offers multiple story and activity options for each session. Leader guides provide rotation station suggestions as well as planning and decorating tips. The supplementary materials also include a preschool adaptation, take-home sheets, and litanies.

# Abundant Life Garden Project: The Basics

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- **Theme:** Gardening, “Shar[ing] the gift of abundant life”
- **Publisher & date:** [Episcopal Relief & Development](#), 2020 ([The Episcopal Church](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** preschool, grades K – 5
- **Format:** onsite or online (a separate virtual program is available)
- **Number of sessions:** 5, plus a bonus intergenerational celebration & Eucharist
- **Types of activities:** worship, storytelling, Bible stories, experiential learning, creative activities, contemplative activities, gardening, snacks
- **Cost:** free

# Abundant Life Garden Project: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: Water**

Exodus 17:1–7, Water from the Rock

Mark 1:4–13, The Baptism of Jesus

- **Day 2: Soil**

Deuteronomy 6:10–12

Luke 8:4–8, Birds, Rocks, Thorns

- **Day 3: Seeds**

Genesis 1:11–12, Receiving the Gift of Seeds

Matthew 13:31–32, Seeds of Growth

# Abundant Life Garden Project: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 4: Animals**

Exodus 3:1–10, Moses the Shepherd

Luke 15:4–6, Finding Lost Sheep

- **Day 5: Harvest**

Ruth 2:1–18, Gleaning the Fields

Luke 9:10–17, Feeding and Sharing

- **Day 6: Celebration**

Psalms 104 (select verses)

Luke 16:1–13

# Abundant Life Garden Project: Where It Shines

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## **Connection to the work of Episcopal Relief & Development**

Each of the daily themes—Water, Soil, Seeds, Animals, Harvest, and even Celebration—tie to the work of Episcopal Relief and Development. The curriculum includes easy ways to bring children into this work and to spark a lifelong passion for justice around these themes.

## **Free resource is a boon for thin budgets**

This resource costs \$0, and much of what it recommends for use is inexpensive and can be used for long-term good. Many other VBS resources tend toward the single-use, throw-away model. Even if you do not decide to use this resource in its fullness, it is free, and the activities and liturgies it contains would be useful to support other programs.

# Abundant Life Garden Project: What We Miss

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## **Not a “just add water” VBS**

It's full of suggestions for how you might do VBS around these themes, but there's no starter kit, no online shop, no decoration guides. VBS directors who are seeking those things should look for other options.

**Abundant  
Life Garden  
Project:  
Overall  
Assessment**

**A flexible  
resource for VBS  
or children's  
formation that  
ties to the work of  
Episcopal Relief  
& Development**