



OBJECT LESSON

Plant Power

[10 min]

Supplies

- various leaves trimmed from houseplants, flowers, trees (you can even use pine needles)
- kids' magnifying glasses (1 for every 2 kids) (you can often find affordable packages of a dozen or more in party sections of department stores)

Tips

- You can ask for trimmings from the floral sections of grocery or floral stores. Many are happy to give these, since they typically just throw them away.
- Be sure to get a diverse mix of leaves—various shapes, sizes, and even smells (such as basil leaves).

Closely Examine Leaves

Say: **Today we're learning that we each have a purpose, and that's true about everything God made in our world! God made us and everything around us with a purpose. Some things in our world have surprising purposes—like these leaves.**

Hold up a handful of leaves.

Say: **Let's look closely at these leaves and see if we can figure out what they do for the plants and trees where they grow.**

- Form leader-led groups, and give each group a mix of leaves and magnifying glasses for every two kids to share.
- Allow time for everyone to investigate their batch of leaves:
 - What do you notice about the different ways the leaves look?
 - Do the leaves have different smells, and why is that surprising or not?
 - What can you see with the magnifying glasses?
 - What things are the same about the leaves?
 - What are some guesses about what these leaves do for the plants or trees they grow on?
- When groups look like they're wrapping up their explorations, invite groups to share some of their discoveries about the leaves and their ideas for the purpose of leaves.

Talk About It

Say: **It's amazing how many different kinds of leaves there are, but they all have one purpose. Leaves have the special job to help their plants. They soak in the sun and make it into food. That food the leaves make gives energy to a plant or tree. It's kind of like how parents or other people who take care of you might feed you. God made leaves with an awesome purpose, and we each have a purpose that God gave us, too!**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Show and Tell and Pray

[5 min]

Supplies

- crayons
- paper

Draw a Picture

Say: **Today we learned that we each have a purpose. In the Bible, Esther's purpose in being queen was to help save her friends and family. Each of you is special like Esther and has special things about you that can help others. Think about some things you can do to help others now.**

Share an example from *your* life, and help kids brainstorm ideas for themselves. This can be something they shared in the Core Bible Discovery activity, or it can be something else.

Give kids crayons and paper, and have them draw pictures of ways they can help and show love to others.

Show and Tell

Invite kids to show their pictures and tell about what they drew. Say: **We each have a purpose. God made each of us special for a reason. Let's tell God we want to use our skills for him.**

Have kids hold up their papers as you pray, asking God to use the special things about them for a purpose.

Say: **I'm so happy to have each of you special ones here today! I hope you'll come back next week!**