

## The Abundant Life Garden Project®

offered by Episcopal Relief & Development

### Water

# 1



In the *Primary Shell portion of the ECC, Unit I, Session 8, "Moses and the Red Sea"* could be used to link the images of Water to this important Bible story. If children in your community struggle with issues of damage or catastrophe resulting from water, including segments of this lesson as additional activities might be helpful.

Also in the *Primary Shell portion of ECC, Unit III* focuses on the sacrament of baptism. Teachers might use the excellent background material for further information and guidance in preparing to teach **Lesson 1: Water**. The ECC teacher books also have many useful teaching tips that apply to all children's programs.

### Seeds

# 2



Several lessons from the **Episcopal Children's Curriculum (ECC)** are linked in concept with **Lesson 2: Seeds**. Additional Lesson Material *The "Patrick of Ireland" lesson* (page 159 in the Primary Cross year materials) is an excellent added option to link missionary and "planting seeds" work in church history with contemporary mission work of the church. In particular, the following segments of this lesson might be used as additional exercises in this module:

**Storytelling (the story of Patrick)**, page 160

**Bible Search, a study of Matthew 28:16-20**, page 161

**Talking it Over**, page 162

**Inquiring**, page 162. This lesson might be reframed slightly to include these questions:

- **How might we, like Patrick, reach out to those in lands other than our own?**
- **How might we, like Patrick, seek and serve Christ in all persons in countries other than our own?**

For more information on the **Baptismal Covenant**, the materials in the *Primary Shell year book, Session 4, "Baptized People Make Promises,"* will be helpful. For more background on the role of all laity in service to others, the materials titled **"We Are All Ministers"** on page 113 of the *Primary Cross year book* likewise will be helpful.

### Soil

# 3



An excellent teaching tool to use with the Soil lesson is found in **Parables**, a supplementary book in the **Episcopal Children's Curriculum**. An age-appropriate re-telling of this parable, along with others, is found on page 5. To access a free copy of this book, visit the **Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS)** website at [www.vts.edu/cmt/published](http://www.vts.edu/cmt/published) and click on **"PRI Chalice Learner's Book, Unit II."** (If you have a print edition of this book, the **Parable of the Sower** is found on pages 14-16.) This book might be made available to children using the New Testament lesson included in this module, **"Birds, Rocks and Thorns."** Children who read well might read the other parables in this book to look for additional images of soil, dirt and earth.

# 4

## Animals



The ECC lesson on Amos, in the *Primary Cross Teacher's Guide* profiles another shepherd in the Bible and addresses issues of social justice and compassion toward the poor. To access the lesson, visit the main ECC web page listed above, then click "**PRI Cross Lessons-All Units,**" found under the heading "**Teacher's Guide.**" The Amos lesson is the first one in this book. These lessons are designed for children in grades one to three, but could be used with older children as well. The ECC curriculum is very flexible, and teachers or leaders may choose from several teaching options for their particular group. You can download the entire *Teacher's Guide*, containing 36 lessons for an entire program year, at no cost.

# 5

## Harvest



Relevant lessons include: *Ruth, Being a Resourceful Servant* (Parable of the Talent) , and *Welcoming All People* (Parable of the Great Banquet), p. 107. This material is found in the *ECC Primary Chalice Year Teacher's Guide* (Under "**Teacher's Guide**", click on "**PRI Chalice Lessons - All Units.**") "*Ruth,*" Unit I, Session 5: The story of Ruth is an excellent example of the concept of Harvest in the Old Testament. By allowing Ruth to glean grain from his fields, Boaz shows kindness and mercy to a widow in need. This lesson plan contains several teaching and activity options related to gifts and service to those in great need. "*Being a Resourceful Servant,*" Unit II, Session 6: *The Parable of the Talents*—the focus of this ECC lesson—is found in the Bible.

# 6

## Gifts for Life

In preparation for the the **Gifts of Life** celebration you might want to share the "*Welcoming All People,*" Unit II, Session 9: *The Parable of the Great Banquet* is likewise an excellent teaching tool to introduce children to the concept of caring for the poor, the sick and those with physical disabilities. This parable is easily accessible to children of all ages and further introduces the concept of hospitality to all people. This might be a good fit for the homily portion of the **Harvest Eucharist**.

All ECC materials referenced are free and accessible online through the **Virginia Theological Seminary** website at [www.vts.edu/cmt/published](http://www.vts.edu/cmt/published)