

“How Gabby’s Garden Grows”

by
Tracy Wells

What Gabby planted a strawberry plant in the hopes of harvesting its fruit to make a pie for the church social. When the plant doesn’t grow, she becomes discouraged. But with a little help from her friends, Gabby learns how the Holy Spirit makes our gardens grow.

Themes: Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Spirit, Kids Ministry

Who Gabby/Gavin
Jacob/Jenny
Henry/Haley
Ellen/Eric
Kylie/Kyle
Denise/Dennis

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Table
Gardening pot filled with dirt
Seed packet
Watering can
Gardening shovel
Ball
Faux (or real) strawberry plant
Bowl of strawberries (2)
Mixing bowl
Spoon
Box of fertilizer

Why Galatians 5:22-23

How If Gabby is played by a male, feel free to change the title of the piece to “How Gavin’s Garden Grows”. An optional tie in would be to perform this skit at a church social with a pie auction or have the children make small strawberry pies.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

Gabby is standing behind a table on which stands a garden pot filled with soil. On the table is a seed packet, a garden shovel, and a watering can.

Gabby: Come on, little strawberry plant. What's taking you so long? I planted you weeks ago and still no sign of you. *(Knocks on pot)* Hellooo? Anybody in there? *(With a sigh, picks up garden shovel)* Who am I kidding? This strawberry plant is not going to grow in time for the church social. I may as well just dig it up and throw it away.

Denise enters, sees Gabby with shovel poised to dig into her plant, runs over and grabs her hand, stopping her just in time.

Denise: Gabby! What are you doing?

Gabby: I'm cleaning out this pot.

Denise: But isn't your strawberry plant in that pot?

Gabby: Well, my strawberry seed is in the pot. But as you can see, it's not much of a plant. *(Puts down shovel and sighs)* It's not much of anything.

Denise: I thought you were growing this plant so you could make a strawberry pie for the church social?

Gabby: I did. But it's been weeks and there's still no plant.

Denise: *(picks up plant)* Don't give up on this little guy. *(Looks at Gabby)* You never know. It might surprise you.

Gabby: I doubt it.

Jacob, Henry, Kylie and Ellen enter. Jacob is carrying a ball.

Henry: Hi Gabby. Do you want to come play with us?

Ellen: We were going to go to the park.

Jacob: They have a cool new soccer field we wanted to try out. But we need another player.

Kylie: And we thought of you. Are you in?

Gabby: *(sadly)* Sorry, Kylie. I don't think I'd be much fun right now.

Ellen: *(crossing to Gabby)* What's wrong, Gabby?

Gabby: A few weeks ago, I planted a strawberry seed in the hopes of growing a plant.

Jacob: That's cool.

Henry: That's delicious! I love strawberries!

Gabby: I wanted to grow my own strawberries to bake into a pie for the church social.

Kylie: *(picks up pot and looks in it)* I don't see a strawberry plant.

Gabby: Exactly.

Ellen: Where is it?

Gabby: It never grew.

Henry: *(chuckling)* I guess Gabby doesn't have much of a green thumb.

Jacob: *(poking his finger in the dirt)* Looks like she's got a brown thumb!
(Laughs)

Henry: *(in a sing song way)* Gabby, Gabby quite contrary—

Jacob: *(in matching sing song)* How does your garden grow?

Henry: Trick question—

Henry and Jacob: *(yelling)* It doesn't! *(Laugh and high five)*

Kylie: That wasn't very nice Henry.

Henry: Jacob said it too!

Jacob: We were only joking.

Gabby: Henry and Jacob were right. My garden is never going to grow. *(Picks up pot)* And now I'll never have the strawberries for my pie. *(Puts plant under the table)* So if you don't mind, I think I'm going to skip the park today. I just want to be by myself. *(Gabby exits)*

Kylie: I hate to see Gabby so sad.

Denise: *(picking up pot from under the table)* I told her not to give up on the plant, especially since it was planted with such a good purpose.

Ellen: To feed the people at the church social?

Denise: That's right, Ellen. God wants us to use the things he has given us to help others.

Henry: Gabby was upset, and we made her feel worse. Now I feel bad.

Jacob: Me too.

Denise: Lucky for us, God gave us the Holy Spirit to help guide us to make the right choices so we can do wonderful things to help others.

Kylie: So, the Holy Spirit will help us find a way to make things right with Gabby?

Denise: If you listen inside yourself, the Holy Spirit will give you all the answers you need.

Ellen, Henry, Kylie and Jacob close their eyes and fold their hands in prayer.

Ellen: *(after a moment, opens her eyes, excitedly)* I've got it! I know how we can help Gabby! Henry, Jacob, Kylie—follow me!

Exits with All except Denise.

Denise: Wow! The Holy Spirit works quickly. *(Picks up pot and looks inside then looks up, surprised)* Very quickly!

Gabby enters, sadly as Denise holds out pot.

Denise: Gabby, wait until you see this!

Gabby: I don't want to see that pot of dirt right now, Denise.

Ellen enters, carrying strawberry plant followed by Henry and Jacob who carry bowls filled with strawberries and Kylie who carries a bowl and spoon.

Kylie: Then maybe you'd like to see these instead!

They put the items on the table with Gabby's pot.

Gabby: Where did those come from?

Ellen: My mom had an extra strawberry plant.

Jacob: We told her about your plant and your plan to bake pies for the church social.

Kylie: Ellen's mom insisted we bring these to you.

Gabby: That's so nice of you guys. Thank you so much. What made you think of such a great idea?

Henry: Denise helped us remember that God is always with us through the Holy Spirit.

Jacob: When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we can do wonderful things.

Ellen: *(putting her arm around Gabby)* And help wonderful people.

Gabby: It's amazing how the Holy Spirit works.

Denise: And even if we can't see it, the Holy Spirit is always there. *(Holds up plant)* Kind of like this plant.

Gabby: What do you mean? There's nothing in that pot.

Denise: Look again.

Gabby: *(looks closely)* There's a little plant growing!

Denise: Our faith is like this plant. It starts out as a tiny seed that needs to be nurtured. *(Mimics putting seed in pot)*

Henry: If we want our seed to grow, we have to give it food. *(Mimics putting in fertilizer)*

Kylie: And water. *(Picks up watering can and mimics watering the seed)*

Denise: Our faith grows when we nurture it too.

Jacob: By reading the Bible and going to church?

Denise: That's right! And while we are growing in our faith, the Holy Spirit is right there beside us, showing us the way.

Gabby: Maybe my little plant will grow after all. And one thing I know for sure— with the help of the Holy Spirit, my faith will grow too!

All: *(except Gabby, sing song)*
Gabby, Gabby,
Now quite happy,
How does your garden grow?

Gabby: With friendship and love,
And God up above,
The Holy Spirit shows us the way to go!

Lights out.