

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE . . .

VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of children from babyhood through to teenage.
- > Some baby clothes or shoes.
- > Seeds or peas or beans in various stages of growth.
- > Seed shape cut-outs.

SHARING

Show the children the seeds and plants, and encourage them to talk about growing and changing.

Show the pictures of children, and encourage the children to talk about how they have changed since birth. Use the clothes or shoes to demonstrate how they have grown.

Do we ever see anything or anyone growing?

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us a story about a farmer and his seeds, and what happened on his farm.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

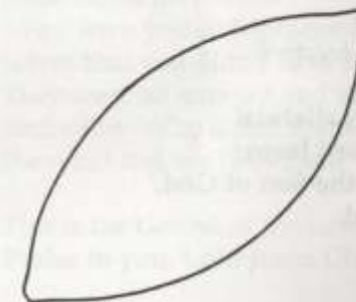
Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the seed of God's word
 grow strong in our hearts.
 Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Mark.
Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus told this story:
 'One day a farmer went out, planted seeds in his fields, and then went home. While he slept at night and while he worked during the day, the seeds under the ground were sprouting and growing, until one day when

the farmer went back to his field, it was full of crops. The farmer hadn't seen the seeds sprout and grow, and he didn't understand how they grew, but they grew nevertheless.'
 Then Jesus said,
 'That is what God's kingdom is like. Even the tiniest of seeds can grow to become the biggest of trees, big enough for all the birds to make their nests in its branches.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

What happened to the farmer's field?
 Why do you think Jesus says the kingdom of God is like seeds?
 - because they have the power to grow.
 How are we like the seeds?
 - because we too have the power to grow, and help God's kingdom.
 What is the power of God in us?
 - love.

ACTIVITIES

- > Give out the seed shape cut-outs.
- > Have the children write or draw on them how they want to grow into a loving person.
- > Here is a poem about trees that have grown tall and strong. Good people are like the trees. Act out

the response as well as saying it after each of the three verses:

Response:

The good will flourish like the palm tree
(arms above head, sway from side to side)
and grow tall like the cedar tree.
(stretch tall and straight)

With your roots in the house of the Lord

you will grow strong in the courts of our God.

Response

You will still give fruit when you are old,
 and your leaves will still be green.

Response

Give thanks to the Lord our God and proclaim that the Lord is just.

Response