

Activities for "Parable of the Mustard Seed" - Matthew 13:31-2, (26th July)

Today we hear another seed parable. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning.

Small seeds make big plants

Look at a sunflower seed and a bean seed. Cut open an apple and look at an apple pip. How big could the plants from these seeds grow? Look at the "growing seeds" picture in the resources section. The sunflowers are bigger than the children, the beanstalks are bigger than the woman, and the apple tree is bigger than the woman on the stepladder. Tiny seeds can grow into big plants or trees.

Measuring growth

Is there a place on the wall or door frame where you measure how much you have grown? If not, you could start doing this. Stand with your heels against a wall or doorframe and put a book flat on your head. Mark in pencil where the book meets the wall and use a tape measure to see how tall you are. Have you grown? Repeat with other members of the household. Who is the tallest? Who is the shortest?

Tree picture

Draw the outline of a tree with trunk and branches. Alternatively, you could use the picture in the resources section, or paint your wrist and hand and make a handprint of a tree. Add leaves with paint, crayons, fingerprints, or pieces of green paper. Add birds on the leaves, finding shelter and building nests.

Seeds, trees, and birds

Take turns to pretend to be a seed or a bird. The "seed" curls up small and the "bird" pecks on the ground but decides the seed is too small to eat. Now the "seed" grows up gradually to be a tall tree with arms stretching out like branches. The "bird" flies to the tree and finds rest and shelter beside it. Tell the story with the rhyme in the resources section. Play a game where one person shouts out "seeds", "trees" or "birds". The other person must make that body shape.

Wondering

Rather than explaining the parable, wonder with your child about what it might mean. I wonder who the man who plants the seed could really be? I wonder who or what is the small seed? I wonder how the man felt when he saw the tree growing so big? I wonder what the birds thought about the tree? I wonder what your favourite part of the story is? I wonder what the hidden meaning in the story is? I wonder what Jesus was trying to teach people? I wonder what other small things grow into big things? I wonder how God's family grows like a tree?