

## Children and family talk for 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

*Hello everyone, it's good to have you with me as we explore more of the Bible together and praise God. We will start by talking to God:*

Creator God, may we be ready to plant your words,  
ready to grow in faith and ready to go and sow your love.

**Amen.**

Our Bible reading today is from **Mark 4.26-34**

**J**esus told his disciples a parable. He said, 'The kingdom of God is like tiny seeds scattered on the ground. They sprout and grow: slowly and silently, through the days and through the nights, hidden from view. It doesn't matter whether the farmer, who planted them, is asleep or awake. \* They grow, on their own, nourished by the earth: first the root, then the stalk, then the bud and finally the full head of grain. The farmer does not know how the seeds grow into grain. But as soon as his crop is ready, he uses his scythe to cut and harvest the grain.' \*

He told them another parable to explain God's kingdom. 'It is like a tiny, tiny mustard seed. A mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds. But when it takes root, and forces its way up through the soil, it grows into one of the largest trees, with branches so wide that birds of all sizes can build their nests in it.'



Jesus used many parables or stories to teach the people.  
\* Those who heard them often didn't understand them, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Mark 4.26-34

## Now let's sing again; **Holy Spirit, living breath of God**

Holy Spirit, living breath of God,  
Breath new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the living Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your word to come alive in me,  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breath new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide with me,  
May your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude:  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,

Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my strivings into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show your power once again on earth,  
Cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
Lead us on the road to sacrifice,  
That in unity the face of Christ  
May be clear for all the world to see.

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## Let's talk about our Bible verses

Jesus is talking in parables, which are ways of saying things in stories, usually using things or situations that would have had meaning to those who were listening. In this case Jesus is wanting to talk about the kingdom of God, which is beyond most peoples understanding, so he uses things that the people around him who were listening would have known about. They were farmers and growers, so Jesus talks about planting seeds. But this is also something we can understand as many of us have gardens and houseplants. This time of year, the grass grows so fast, we seem to need to mow it weekly. And if you're into growing from seed, as I am, you will know that its when you don't watch the seeds that they suddenly sprout up and grow and need to be planted out.

However, although we understand the story about the seed growing, we can't always see straight away how this relates to God's Kingdom. Sometimes we are looking for a trick answer and think it may be more difficult than it is. The first story is about being aware that God's Kingdom will grow once we have told people about the good news about God's love. We don't need to be there to see it happen. We can let God take over. That's quite a difficult one to take in, but important because we often think things won't happen if we aren't there to look after things, but God is always there and we can take a step back.

The second story tells us that even if we just tell people the smallest bit about God's good news, it can grow in them until they are part of God's beautiful big Kingdom.

That is wonderful news, isn't it? How many seeds can you sow for God's Kingdom this week?

*Let's talk to God now:*

Creator God, send us out to be  
ready to learn from your words,  
ready to grow in faith and  
ready to sow the seeds of your love.

**Amen.**

M

ay the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present) And the  
love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The family at home sheet from roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/22934/roots-at-home-13-june-2021.pdf>