



**Kia inu kau ahau,
If I could just drink**
Faith Formation Team
Auckland Catholic/RE/
aucklandcatholic.org.nz

Exploring the Gospel

A Religious Education Resource for Parishes

**Today we are going to be talking about
What's God's Kingdom like?
Let's, listen and hear the story Jesus tells his followers.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark....*adapted for children*

Jesus said:

God's kingdom is like what happens when a farmer scatters seed in a field. The farmer sleeps at night and is up and around during the day.

Yet the seeds keep sprouting and growing, and he doesn't understand how. It is the ground that makes the seeds sprout and grow into plants that produce grain. Then when harvest season comes the grain is ripe.

What is God's kingdom like? What story can I use to explain it? It is like what happens when a mustard seed is planted in the ground. It is the smallest seed in all the world. But once it is planted, it grows larger than any garden plant. It even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to rest in its shade.

Jesus used many other stories when he spoke to the people, And he taught them as much as they could understand. He did not tell them anything without using stories. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

Let's sit quietly now and think of the seeds growing.

Unpacking the Gospel

What does the farmer do in this story?

What was the smallest seed called?

What happens to the seed? Who makes the seed grow?

What does this parable teach us about God's kingdom?

Many things that begin small become large. Ask the children to name some things which start out small but grow big. For example, seeds are small but become big plants. People start as babies but grow to be adults. An egg becomes an ostrich.

Remind the children that God can use the smallest of actions. Refer to the boy's lunch provided for thousands of people when Jesus multiplied the fish and the bread.

Think about what ways can you help to spread the Gospel by doing small things? Could you hand out cards to friends with verses in them? Invite someone to church? Teach friends a Bible song? Be kind to someone?



Click on the picture and follow the link

Planting Seeds - Watching Them Grow

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. Mark 4:26-27 (NIV)

Based on Mark 4:26-29 (NIV)



P C O S D G H X C Y G R O W S
C X C K U T R S P R O U T D V
N P Y G R R U O M O H Y K A V
R K P R A I Y K U J L W D Y M
T W D A G P X Y J N K J G O T
M Q F I V E L E M N D F D K O
M H X N U H H T F Y Q G L K H
D K Q L N E Y Z N W N A S D T
J C J Q L A E V U I T T O E D
C F V F S D X D K S D H I V Y
D E S Q N I G H T O I E L B O
D D B L X C I N G P D E F B M
L Z S E E D O T N N W K F N S
O H A R V E S T Q W E W D L O
R X R G O P P S C A T T E R W

RIPE
DAY
HEAD
SLEEP

KINGDOM
GROUND
GROWS
HARVEST

SOIL
SEED
NIGHT
SCATTER

SPROUT
GRAIN
GOD
STALK

Hear ye therefore the parable
of the sower.

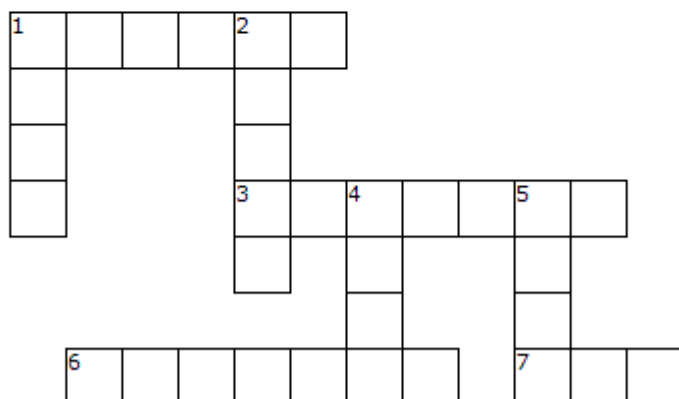
Matthew 13:18



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ACROSS

- The surface of the earth or of a piece of land
- The time when the crop is gathered
- To throw something in many directions
- The part of the day when the sun shines

DOWN

- To increase in size
- The part of the day when it is dark
- Fully grown; ready to be eaten
- A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow

| | | | |
|------|---------|-------|---------|
| DAY | SEED | GROW | GROUND |
| RIPE | SCATTER | NIGHT | HARVEST |