



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle B - XI Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 17, 22-24; Psalm 91; 2Co 5, 6-10; Mark 4, 26-34

The Seed that Grows

Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

Reflection

Jesus tells 2 parables to explain the Kingdom of God. What is the Kingdom of God? (It is Jesus living and acting in the hearts of His friends.)

First, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to what? (To the process of planting a seed of wheat: the stems, stalks and grains grow, followed by the harvest.) **How are they the same?** (We plant the seed of the Kingdom of God when we baptize a child, teach them to pray and love God and others, and they receive the Sacraments. The Holy Spirit causes the seed to germinate and grow. Jesus gathers the fruit, the good works which help build His Kingdom.) **What does a plant need to grow?** (Water, sun, good soil...) **What does a person need to help the seed of faith to grow in their heart?** (Prayer, Jesus in the Eucharist, the Word of God, love...

Although we don't see it, the Holy Spirit makes the seed of faith grow into good works to help build God's Kingdom.) **Jesus also compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed. How?** (Although the mustard seed is tiny, the tree grows to be the largest, with abundant branches for many birds to build their nests. In the same way, when the seed of the Kingdom of God is planted in a fertile heart, faith, hope, and love grows and extends to others helping build God's Kingdom.)

Activity

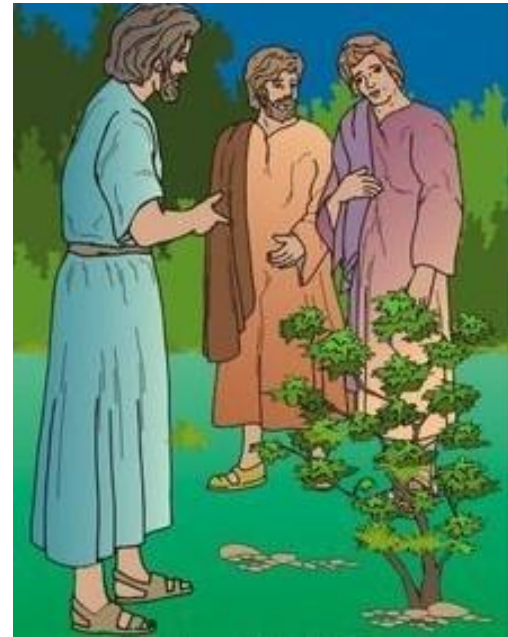
On the following page, color or draw all the steps of the parable in sequence: seed, stalk, grain, and harvest. Color a sack filled with ripe grain, and a group of children doing good works. Relate their good works with the harvest. Ask them how they can help build God's Kingdom. On the other page choose and write the words in the nest that help to build the Kingdom of God.

Prayer

Jesus, you are the best Sower and you plant in your friends the seed of your Word and your immense Love. Help me to share this love with my good works, and help build Your Kingdom. Thank you, Jesus, for making me grow without me realizing it. **Amen.**

Song: Enable Me to Grow, Nabil and Nasreen, (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/yMkYxv-jQvw>

PPT: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14OSMAKFW7WVY0_leDtGSgpEyCrmtBYLZ/view?usp=sharing



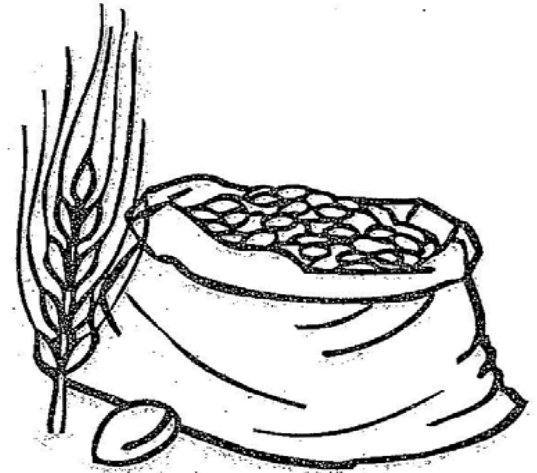
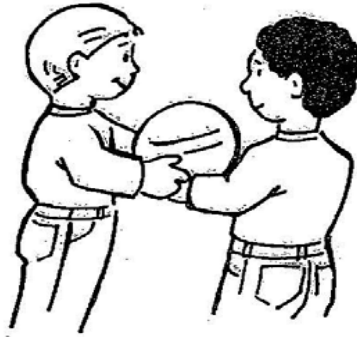


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Florida Center for Peace

The seed of the Kingdom of God germinates in my heart, growing and giving fruit. Jesus gathers my good fruits for His Kingdom. (Mark 4, 26-34)



Jesus gathers our good works.



Seeds that germinate and grow and give grain for the harvest.

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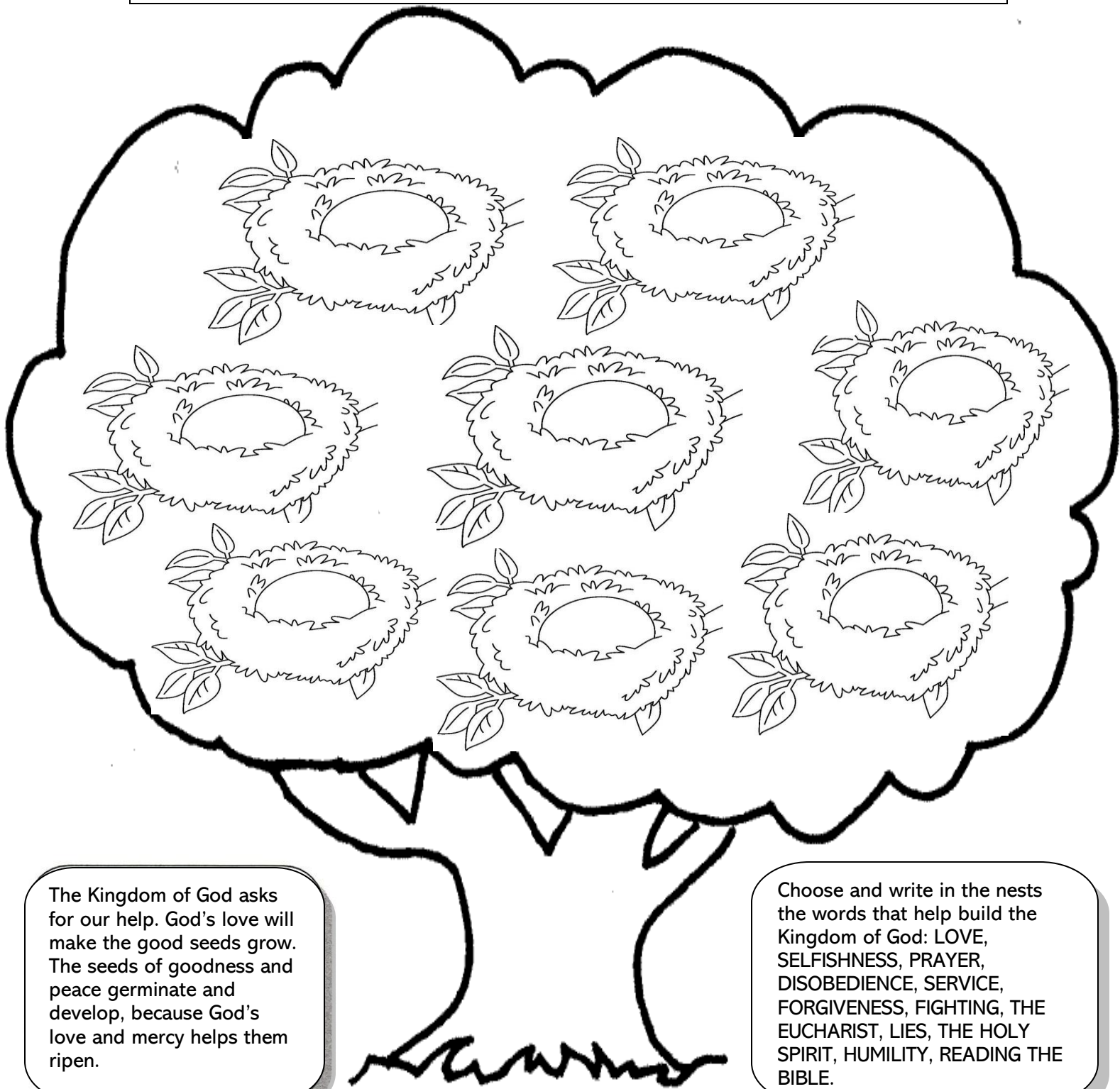


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Florida Center for Peace

**THE TINY MUSTARD SEED GROWS TO BE THE LARGEST TREE
HOUSING MANY BIRD'S NESTS (Mark 4, 26-34)**



The Kingdom of God asks for our help. God's love will make the good seeds grow. The seeds of goodness and peace germinate and develop, because God's love and mercy helps them ripen.

Choose and write in the nests the words that help build the Kingdom of God: LOVE, SELFISHNESS, PRAYER, DISOBEDIENCE, SERVICE, FORGIVENESS, FIGHTING, THE EUCHARIST, LIES, THE HOLY SPIRIT, HUMILITY, READING THE BIBLE.

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