

**Focus:** The Kingdom of God grows bigger every day.

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
 CD: Bible Songs for Kids, Vol. 2  
 Bible: The Beginner's Bible  
 Red and Green Squares  
 SEED CD

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about Eucharist and how we remember what Jesus did for us every week we come to church. Remember to cross your hands over their chest (demonstrate and have them imitate your actions). This week we will talk about the Kingdom of God where Jesus will reign over all the world for ever and ever.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Lord, with your love and care even the smallest things grow to greatness.*

*Help us grow to become great members of your kingdom. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Standin' In the Need of Prayer*, track: 8, from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol. 2

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

It's me, it's me, O Lord  
 Standing in the need of prayer;  
 It's me, it's me, O Lord  
 Standing in the need of prayer.

Not my father, not my mother, but  
 it's me, O Lord  
 Standing in the need of prayer.

Not my sister, not my brother. but  
 it's me, O Lord  
 Standing in the need of prayer.

Repeat both verses 2 more times.  
 Last time repeat last line: "Standing in the need of prayer."

**Memory Verse**

*Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*When God's love is shared his kingdom grows.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

*Say: The kingdom of God is the new way of life that Jesus showed us. To live in this kingdom and be a part of it, means that we live as Jesus taught us. We should put the love of God and our neighbor before everything else. The Kingdom of God grows from small beginnings like a tiny seed that grows into a big tree.*

**Gospel Story**

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

**Read:** The Beginner's Bible, pp. 348-351, *A Tiny Seed and a Big Tree*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**Discussion Starters:**

- *What is the smallest of all seeds on the Earth?*
- *What happened when that smallest of all seeds was planted in the ground?*
- *What purpose does the large plant that grows from the mustard seed serve?*
- *What grows like the mustard seed?*
- *What makes the Kingdom of God grow?*
- *How can we share God's love?*

**Reflection on Reading:**

*The Kingdom of God grows when members of the Church faithfully plant the small seeds of kind words, helpful deeds, and prayer. With God's help, these small seeds grow into the Church, where all may come to find welcome and rest.*

**Gospel Activity**Activity 1:**Good Deeds Grow:**

Each time we do something that is good and faithful to God; we help bring about his kingdom of love and peace. Just as little seeds sprout plants, our little good deeds sprout joy and love. When we do what God wants us to do, it encourages other people to do what God wants them to do, and that encourages even more people to do the same. As the goodness spreads, the kingdom grows.

Use the Red/Green squares or Thumbs up/thumbs down for the following:

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| < Say something kind                  | < Ask the new child at school to play with you and your friends |
| < Be willing to help others           | < Share your toys   |
| < Think of what Jesus wants you to do | < Give someone a hug  |
| = Make fun of someone                 | < Forgive someone who was unkind                                |
| < Tell the truth                      | < Help someone with grocery shopping                            |
| = Fight with your brothers or sisters | = Run or skate in the store                                     |
| < Help without being asked            | < Hold the door open for someone                                |
| < Let others choose the game to play  |   |

Activity 2:**There's a Seed in my Heart:**

Our gospel reading shows that from a small beginning like the mustard seed God's kingdom will grow very big. The word of God is planted in our hearts and as we grow in kindness, love, patience and forgiveness, we share God's love with others and this is how God's kingdom grows.

Play the Seed Song and do hand movements to the lyrics.

There is (\_\_\_\_) in my heart, let it grow.

There is (\_\_\_\_) in my heart, let it grow.

There is (\_\_\_\_) in my heart,

There is (\_\_\_\_) in my heart,

There is (\_\_\_\_) in my heart, let it grow.

Fill in blank with: "a seed", "joy", "love", "a seed"

Seed: use thumb and index finger to show something small.

Joy: smile and point to your face with both index fingers.

Love: use your fingers to draw a heart in the air.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

**Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, whose kingdom grows bigger every day?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to share God's love with others?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us know the right thing to do?*

**Sending Forth**

*Say: This week you can help grow the kingdom of God by doing good deeds for others, no matter how big or small. You can plant seeds in the garden to help remember that we grow every day, just like the seed grows into a plant.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "*The Light Medley*" track 10 from 25 Sunday School Songs while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.