

"The Growing Seed" *by Rev. John C. Tittle*

Scripture Reading: Mark 4: 26-29 NRSV

²⁶ Jesus also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

Discussion Questions:

1. What's the most success you've had growing a plant?
2. Oak trees, sequoias, mustard, wheat, fruit, coffee and 353,000 other plants all come from a small seed. What's your favorite seed?
3. In order for seeds to grow and break through the ground, they need to be broken and buried. What Christian lessons can be learned from this?
4. Seeds are resilient. In fact, seeds require stress to germinate--cold spells, fire, even passing through an animal's body enable a seed to grow. All of these stressors unlock, not block, the miracle of the seed. What might we learn about the kingdom of God from this?
5. Seeds are able to propagate and spread around the world by countless ways: tossed onto shore by waves, spun for miles in the air by wind, or packaged in a fruit. What can the seeds teach us about the good news of the gospel?
6. In this parable Jesus is emphasizing God's ability more than human activity. How can we trust God more, yet still be active in our faith?
7. How might this parable be encouraging to us when we see little spiritual growth happening in or around us?
8. What do you think Jesus' main point in this parable is?