

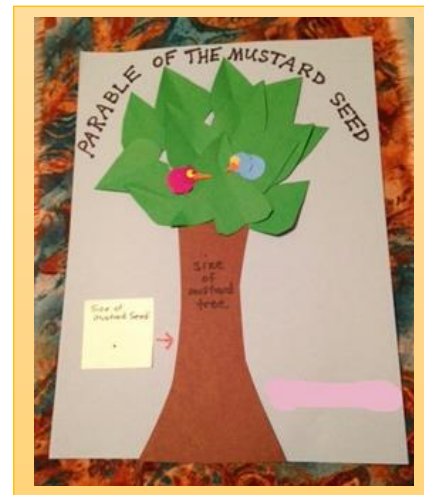
CATECHESIS@HOME 2021 #15

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

(11th Sunday of the Year)



Prepared by Archdiocesan Catechetical Centre
Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur



INTRODUCTION

This material has been prepared to provide families an opportunity to gather and spend time reflecting on and doing the activities related to the gospel reading of 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

HOW TO USE THE MATERIAL

This document contains activities that members of the family may complete individually (just the children), in pairs (with parental assistance), or as an entire family. It would be helpful to print a hard-copy, so that members of the family may carry out different activities at the same time.

WHEN TO USE THE MATERIAL

During the week after the family has celebrated the Mass of 11th Sunday of the Year.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we have gathered here in the name of Jesus. Thank you for reminding us that even if we have faith as small as a mustard seed, we can do great things for you. Holy Spirit, guide us during this family gathering. We make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Invite someone to read **Mark 4: 26-34**. Then, as a family reflect on the questions given below and share your responses with one another. If necessary, parents are encouraged to rephrase the information and questions according to their children's level of understanding.

Time of reflection and response:

Simple things we say or do can have a big influence. One person can affect many, even without knowing it. The kingdom of God grows of its own power in the world, and nobody can stop it, like good seed growing under the ground.

God is the God of here, there and everywhere. Seeds may sprout anywhere in the field, and the kingdom can find its way into the lives of individuals and communities in ways that may be surprising and amazing.

The mustard seed becomes a tree for all; the kingdom of God is for every man, woman and child. Have you ever brought something of the kingdom of God – of love and peace, prayer and faith, justice and hope to people around you? Today, let us reflect on God's reign in our lives and in the world.

Lord, help me realise that my task is to sow seeds, no matter how small they may be, and to trust that they will sprout and grow, and come to harvest in your good time.

1. How aware am I of God's reign in my own life? In what ways can I allow the reign of God to transform me daily?
2. How have I welcomed the gifts of God, no matter how small they may be, in my life? What are the three 'gifts' God has given or is giving me that I am grateful for?
3. How am I sharing the gifts I am receiving from God with others?

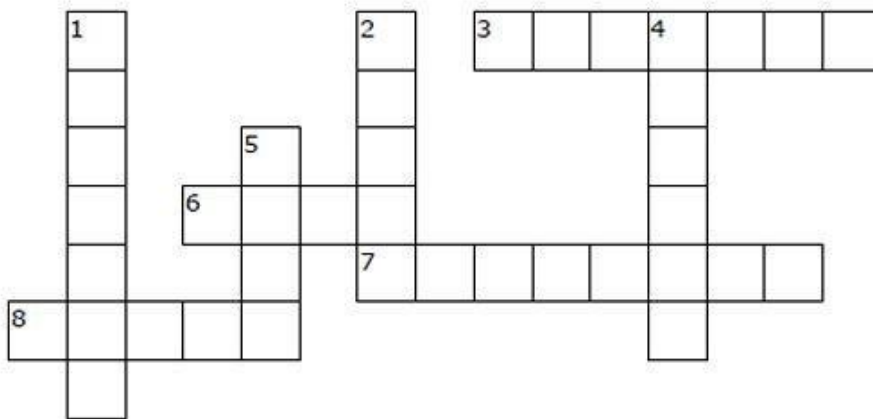
FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Below you will find some activities for younger children, revolving around the scripture readings of Pentecost Sunday. Select the activities you would like to complete with your children, or try to complete them all if you can!

Activity #1: Solve the puzzle.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."
Mark 4:30-32



ACROSS


3. Bigger than any of the others
6. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
7. Not as big as any of the others
8. A living thing that grows in the ground, usually with leaves or flowers

DOWN


1. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
2. An animal that has wings and is covered with feathers
4. An area where plants are grown
5. The place where birds lay eggs or give birth to their young


SEED	PARABLE	BIRDS	LARGEST
SMALLEST	NEST	GARDEN	PLANT

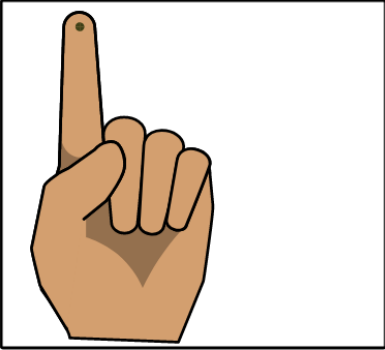
Activity #2: Find the words.


D	A	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	S	KINGDOM	
A	D	Y	D	N	N	E	I	S	T	SEED	
I	A	D	I	S	I	N	P	H	S	DAY	
D	I	A	S	A	W	R	T	E	E	SPROUTING	
P	R	A	E	D	O	C	E	L	V	GROWING	
G	D	A	S	U	R	P	B	T	R	EAR	
O	R	E	T	A	G	I	O	E	A	GRAIN	
R	A	I	E	S	R	R	B	R	H	CROP	
C	N	R	T	S	U	P	I	D	C	HARVEST	
G	R	A	T	S	U	M	T	S	E	MUSTARD	
										BIRDS	
										SHELTER	


Activity #3: Tell the story in your own words.














Activity #4: Find the words.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."
Mark 4:30-32



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

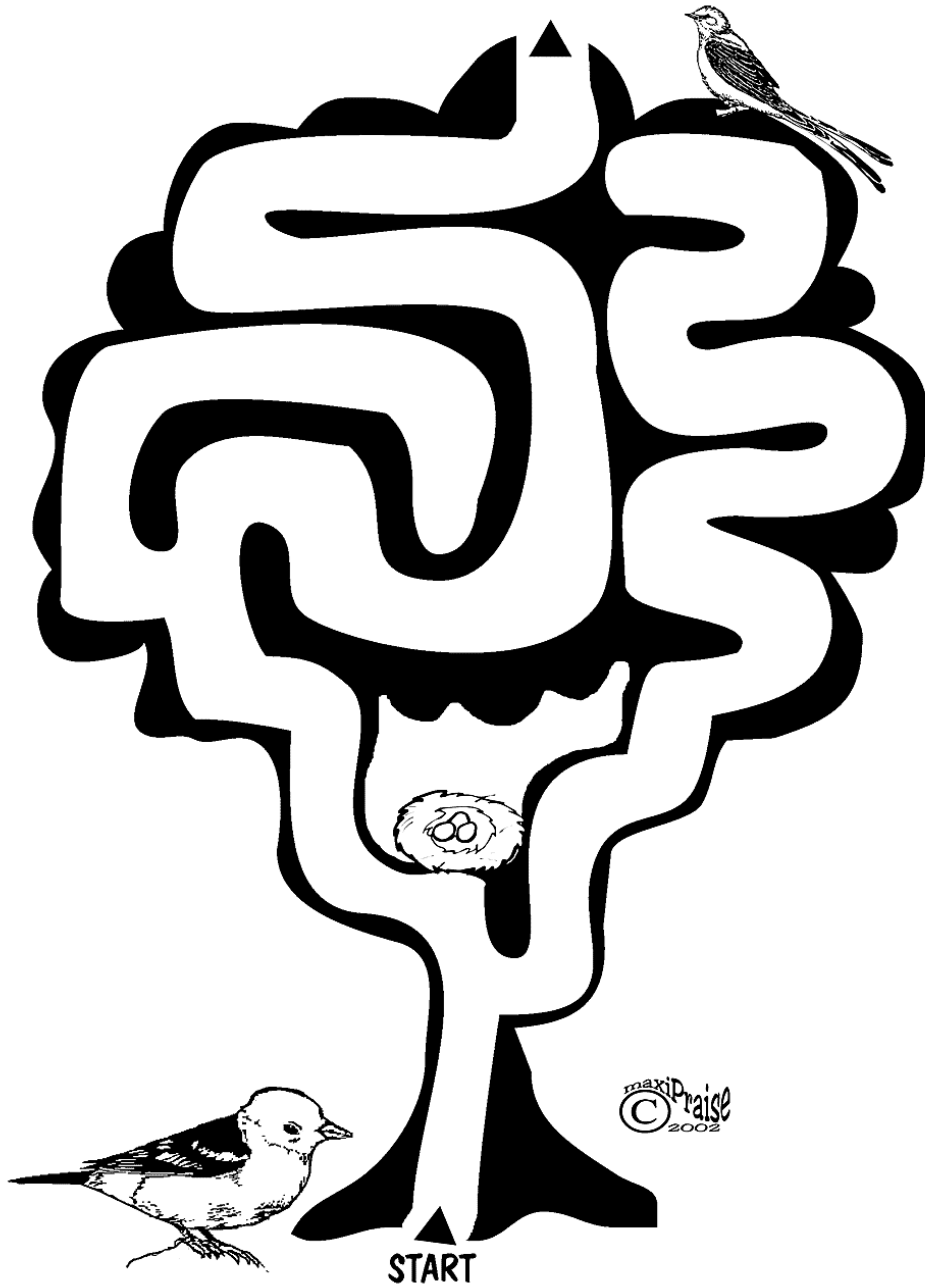
BIRDS	SHADE	NEST	MUSTARD	BRANCHES
JESUS	GARDEN	PLANTED	LARGEST	PLANTS
STORY	GROUND	SEED	SMALLEST	KINGDOM

Activity #5: Help the bird get to the top of the mustard tree.

Parable

The Mustard-Seed

Help the bird get to the top of the mustard tree.



Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, but when a man planted that seed in the ground it grew into a great tree. That mustard tree made a safe place for all the birds to come, rest and build nests.

Activity #6: Break the code.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



T	E	G	B	W	J	C	D	M	F	A	R	L	Q	Y	O	H	X	Z	U	S	V	P	K	I	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 23-11-12-11-4-13-2 _____
- 24-25-26-3-8-16-9 _____
- 9-20-21-1-11-12-8 _____
- 21-2-2-8 _____
- 23-13-11-26-1-2-8 _____
- 21-9-11-13-13-2-21-1 _____
- 13-11-12-3-2-21-1 _____
- 23-13-11-26-1-21 _____
- 4-25-12-8-21 _____
- 26-2-21-1 _____

PLANTED	MUSTARD	KINGDOM	NEST	PLANTS
SMALLEST	PARABLE	BIRDS	LARGEST	SEED

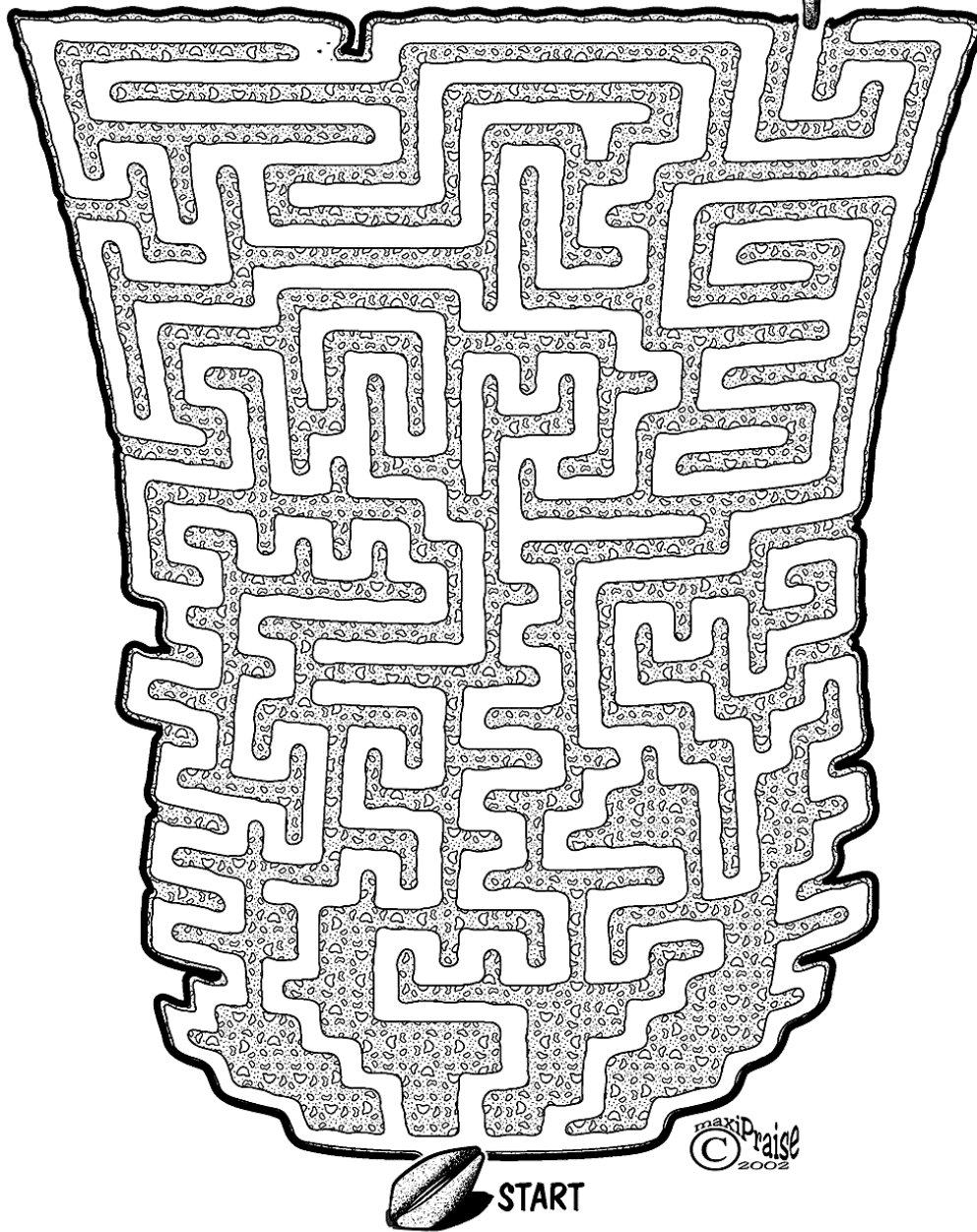
Activity #7: Help the seed to find the right route.

Parable

The Seed Growing Secretly

The seed needs to rise up through the earth and sprout.
Find the right route for the shoot to travel.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is as if a gardener sows seed in the earth. He then can go and rest, sleep, get up the next day and live his life. While he does this, the seed will rise, sprout, become a blade and then grow into a plant with grain, corn or fruit ready for harvest. When the harvest is ripe and ready, the gardener will go out and will reap, cutting and taking the grain, corn or fruit and leaving what is not useful to him.



Activity #8: Find the words.

Planting Seeds - Watching Them Grow

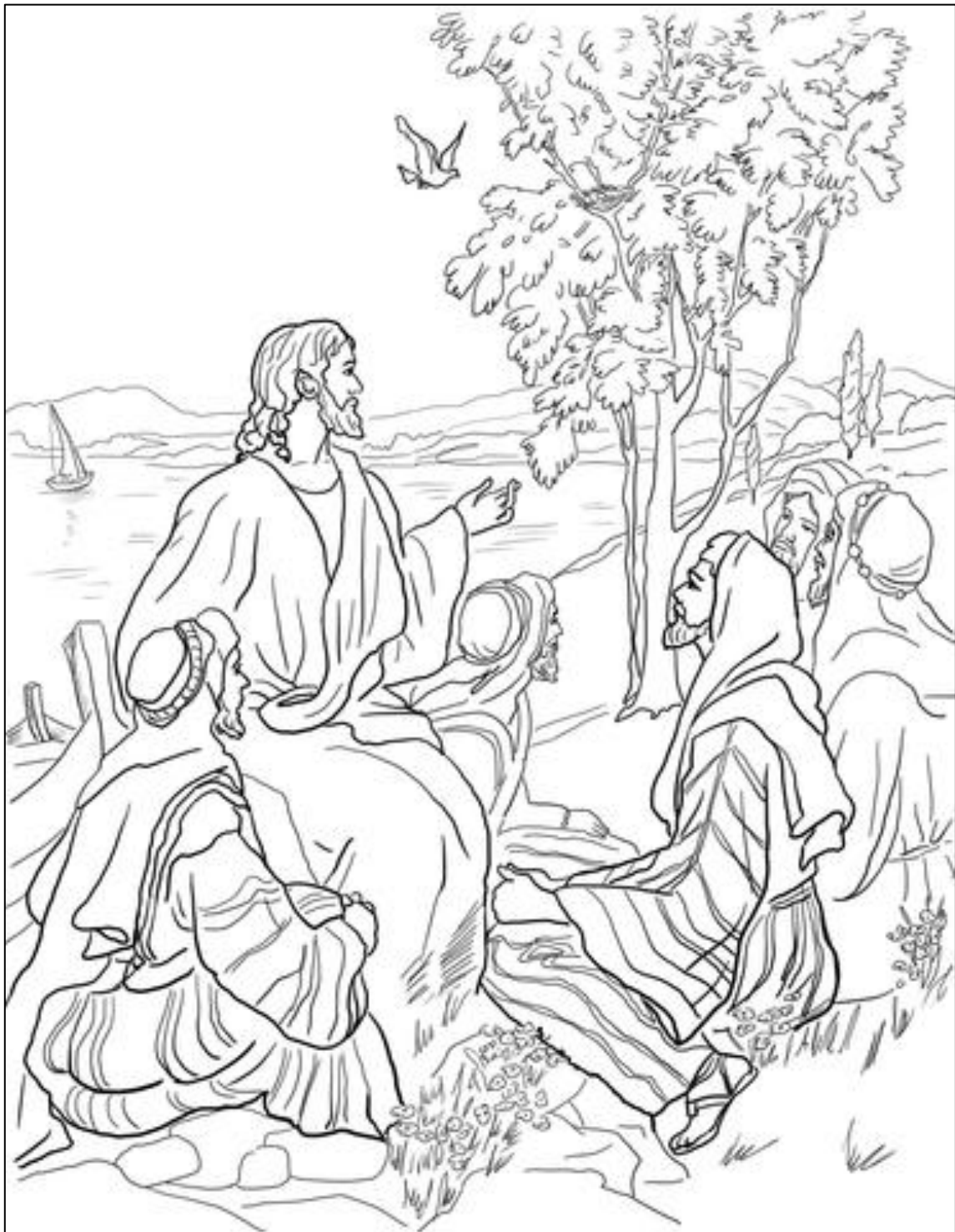
He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. Mark 4:26-27



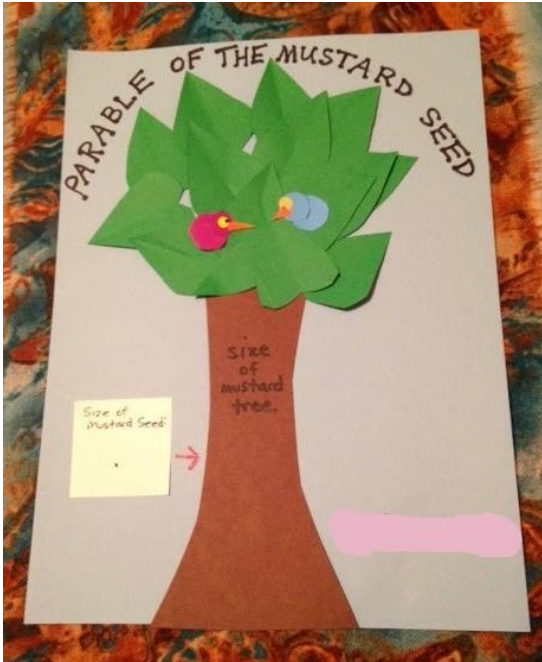
P C O S D G H X C Y G R O W S
C X C K U T R S P R O U T D V
N P Y G R R U O M O H Y K A V
R K P R A I Y K U J L W D Y M
T W D A G P X Y J N K J G O T
M Q F I V E L E M N D F D K O
M H X N U H H T F Y Q G L K H
D K Q L N E Y Z N W N A S D T
J C J Q L A E V U I T T O E D
C F V F S D X D K S D H I V Y
D 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	KINGDOM	SOIL	SPROUT
DAY	GROUND	SEED	GRAIN
HEAD	GROWS	NIGHT	GOD
SLEEP	HARVEST	SCATTER	STALK

Activity #9: Colour the picture.



Activity #10: Parable of the Mustard Seed Activity.



Materials needed:

- A4 size blue paper or any other suitable colour paper.
- Brown paper.
- Green paper.
- Scrap of white paper.
- Stickers of birds or make your own with colourful paper that is found around the house, kitchen, or magazines,
- Glue, markers, crayons, scissors.

1. The blue paper is the background.
2. Cut a tree trunk out of the brown paper by cutting two curved lines (as in the picture). This is the trunk
3. Glue trunk to bottom middle of blue paper.
4. Hand out green paper.
5. Fold green paper.
6. Cut hearts out of green paper. These are the leaves.
7. Glue leaves on top of the tree trunk.
8. Glue small square of white paper on blue paper. Write "Size of mustard seed" on white paper.
9. Draw tiny black dot on white paper. This is the mustard seed (as in picture).
10. With red crayon, draw an arrow from white square to tree.
11. Write "Size of Mustard Tree" in the middle of the tree trunk.
12. Write "PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED" at the top of the blue paper.
13. Cut out two birds out of colourful magazines, empty boxes, discarded colour paper, etc.
14. Glue birds to the leaves in the tree.