Plan

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| Supplies  Basic Supplies: CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Adventure Video | Pencils | Crayons | Markers | Scissors | Glue | Paper | Blocks or small boxes  Supplies for Extra At-Home Activity: None |

Before You Teach

Jesus taught his followers using stories called parables. In these stories, he used practical things the people were familiar with to describe spiritual things. The mustard seed is one of the tiniest seeds planted, but it grows into a large plant. The kingdom of God had small beginnings, but it quickly grew large. Our individual faith in God can grow by reading God’s Word and living like God wants us to live. God is always with us to help us learn and grow.

From a Seed to a Tree

Before class: Make a copy of From a Seed to a Tree to show the kids.

SAY: How does a little seed grow into a big tree?

* Show the children the picture of a seed growing into a tree.
* Talk together about what a plant needs to grow.

Things that Grow (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of the puzzle for each child.

SAY: How many things can you think of that grow? See if you can add something that starts with each letter of the alphabet. Draw a picture or write a word in each blank.

* Give each child a copy of the puzzle.
* Invite the children to work on their puzzles.
* Go over the children’s answers together.

Read the Bible Story

* Find Luke 13:18-21 in your Bible, or read the story “The Mustard Seed and the Yeast” from the Deep Blue Bible Storybook (pp. 350–351).

ASK: What question did Jesus ask? (What is God’s kingdom like?) What did Jesus compare God’s kingdom to? (a mustard seed and yeast.)

See the Bible Story

SAY: The Deep Blue Kids are getting ready to help Mayor Taylor pick up trash in Deep Blue Shores. Kat isn’t so sure that doing such a small thing can help. They learn that small things can make a big difference.

* Watch today’s episode here: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/35799-deep-blue-connects-adventure-summer-2020/35802-lessons/114919-communities-grow>

ASK: What small things can you do?

Growing into a Tree (Extra Interaction)

SAY: Pretend you are a tiny seed. You have been planted in the ground and you are waiting to grow. Imagine that the sun is shining down on you. Start growing. Rain is falling. You soak up the water and grow some more. Grow as tall as you can and stretch toward the sky.

Sacred Conversations

ASK: What do you imagine God is like? What do you imagine the kingdom of God is like?

Blessing

SAY: Before we end today, we are going to share a blessing with each other. Blessings show how special you are to God.

* Go around the room and say the blessing to each child.

SAY: (Person’s name), God loves you. God remembers you. God will always be with you.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for being with us as we grow; in Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Growing Tag (Extra At-Home Activity)

* Choose two children to be “it.” They are “The Kingdom of God.” Have the two children link elbows.
* Have the other children spread out throughout the play area.
* Have the “Kingdom of God” children move with elbows linked and try to tag the other children.
* When a child is tagged, he or she should link elbows with the taggers .
* Play until every child is added to “The Kingdom of God.”