

PROPER 6

Sunday between 12 and 18 June inclusive
(if after Trinity Sunday)

Thought for the day

From small beginnings, and by God's power, the kingdom of heaven grows.

Readings

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 or Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 20 or Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Aim

To know that God's love grows and grows in his people.

Starter

Play with very soapy water, making bubbles by blowing through your hands. (Ordinary bubble mix is the rather boring substitute!) As you play, talk about the bubbles growing bigger and bigger, and see who can make the biggest.

Teaching

How did we make our bubbles grow? We had to blow very carefully and gently. Show the children some little seeds and pictures of what they grow into. Show them some real 'grown' examples as well if this is practical. In the story of Jack and the beanstalk, the beans grew up overnight into a huge plant, but usually the growing goes on bit by bit, day by day, until instead of a tiny seed you find a big tall plant, or even a tree.

Bubbles and plants aren't the only things which grow. We grow too! Let them stand up as tall as they can and remember when they were only very short. In the world God has made, there is lots and lots of growing that goes on.

Jesus told his friends one day that, just like the other things that grow, the kingdom of heaven grows and grows. Bit by bit God's love and goodness is growing and spreading. Once there were just a few of Jesus' followers, but now there are friends of Jesus all over the place. We know a few of them, because they are with us in our church. (Name some of them.) Then there are Jesus' friends in all the other churches, not just in this country, but all over the world.

Praying

Pray for each other by name:

Lord Jesus, bless

Let your love in her/him grow and grow a bit more every day of her/his life.

Activities

When they have coloured and cut out the plant on the sheet, they can fold it as shown so that they can make it 'grow' like Jesus' love in us. They can also match the seed to the tree pictures.

Notes