

## Resources on the Sunday Readings – Trinity 2

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

### Picture Reflection



### The growing adventure Mark 4:26-34

- Put yourself in the room in the image for this week...spend some time looking at the interior design features...
- Imagine, in turn, sitting on the sofa...sitting on the cushions on the floor and sitting in the geometric chair... In each place what do you see?
- Spend some time being nosy...what are the books on the coffee table...what might be hidden in the drawers of the shelving unit...have a good look at the plant - is it real?
- Having had a really good look at the room - what do you like or dislike about the environment? Could you live well in a room like that?
- Reflect on your own living space in your home...how does your living space help you grow and flourish?
- If, on reflection, it is too cluttered....what are you going to do about it?
- Where do you see God's kingdom-values stimulating growth and well-being in your home, your church family and in your community?
- How can each of us be good caretakers of God's creation in the coming week?

# Bible Study

## The Parable of the Growing Seed

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

## The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>30</sup> He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## Questions to consider from this reading.

- Why does Jesus use parables at all to explain the mysteries of the Gospel?
- Why do you think Jesus used these agricultural examples and metaphors to describe the Kingdom of God?
- What can we understand about the Kingdom of God from these parables?
- Will the mustard seed grow on its own, or what does the farmer have to do to help it?
- How can we become living parables or descriptors for the Kingdom of God?