

JUNE 14, 2015  
THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

The kingdom of God grows.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Two parables of seeds
Monday	Ezekiel 31:1-14	God cuts down tall, proud trees
Tuesday	Hosea 14:1-7	Israel will be a fragrant cedar
Wednesday	Mark 4:1-20	The parable of the sower
Thursday	Genesis 3:14-24	Deprived of the tree of life
Friday	Revelation 21:22 - 22:5	Given the tree of life
Saturday	Psalms 52	Like an olive tree in God's house
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for all your blessings to us. Use our lives and our home to give shelter and care to others. Amen. (Mark 4:32)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

God has planted, God has fed. Thanks be to God for daily bread. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God help you to grow as a seed he has planted. May he watch over you and do many good things through you. Amen.



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is one way you have grown over the past year? What has helped you to grow?
- Jesus talked about the kingdom of God growing from a tiny seed into a large plant (Mark 4:30-32). What do you think he meant?
- In what ways would you like to grow more in the coming year?

## DEVOTIONS

Collect some green paper and cut it into leaf shapes. Also set up a leafless branch or a stick in a pot or vase as a centerpiece for your home altar area or meal table. During your home devotion times this week, share ways in which you have seen God the King at work in the world around you. For each sign of God's kingdom activity, attach a paper leaf to the branch or stick. Praise and thank God for all his blessings.

## SERVICE

Plan to surprise your neighbors with gifts of potted plants at Christmas time. Work together to purchase plants or seedlings, soil and pots. Talk to an expert gardener about what kinds of plants will grow best in your climate. Take turns caring for the plants so that they grow strong and healthy over the coming months.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As a household activity, visit a plant nursery, botanical garden or conservatory. Talk about the differences you see between the plants on display and what is needed to help them grow.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)