



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Dandelions!

Children's Story

Year B, Proper 6

Title: Dandelions!
Author: Vern Klassen-Wiebe
Church: Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Mark 4:26-34
Theme: God's unstoppable Kingdom grows within and among us.

Wondering questions:

- I wonder why dandelions are so unstoppable.
- I wonder if people with deep roots in God keep blooming like dandelions.
- I wonder how deep the roots of God's loving purposes go, and how the seeds of God's love spread in our world.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather for the children's story. Encourage them to settle into a comfortable position. Engage the children in some preliminary conversation about spring and how great it is that all the plants and trees are bursting out. Ask them about their favourite parts of spring. Move from this conversational time into a mood of holy expectancy as you focus on God's presence among you. Open your Bible to Mark 4:26 and show them the short little story that Jesus told about the growing seed to explain what God's kingdom is like. What a good story to focus on in spring, when the weather is warm again, the grass is green again, and flowers are wonderful. But, that also reminds you of something you don't like about spring, but that is kind of like the kingdom of God

Story:

Believe it or not, there are some things about spring that I do NOT like! It's the dandelions that seem to pop up faster than the grass. I really should like them. They are bright yellow and happy looking.

I get bouquets of them from people your age. What is there not to like about them? Well, my neighbours don't seem to have any and so I think that I shouldn't have any, either. Mine stick out in a not-so-nice way. Oh bother, what am I supposed to do?

I'll let you in on a little secret! I asked my children to pick off all the yellow dandelions so our yard wouldn't look so yellow. That was a good idea, wasn't it? Well, there wasn't too much complaining and they did a good job. Now our lawn looks good again.

The next day my daughter came home after school and announced, "Well, we did all that work for nothing yesterday! There are as many dandelions on the lawn as we picked yesterday. What's the use?!"

Jesus told stories about how seeds grow mysteriously and about how tiny seeds can grow into big plants. Jesus compared these growing seeds to how God's kingdom is growing in the world. God keeps on planting little seeds of love and goodness that help make the world the way God wants it to be, whether we help or not, just like dandelions keep growing in my lawn.

I don't think dandelions grew where Jesus lived, but if they did, I wonder if Jesus would have said, "The Kingdom of God is like a dandelion." The seeds of God's love and goodness among us may be small, but mysteriously they grow into big plants and produce more seeds; just like those dandelions in my lawn which I can't seem to stop.

Prayer:

Thank you for dandelions with their roots and seeds; for the way they remind us of your unstoppable loving purposes. Please help us stay rooted in your love and truth, and spread the seeds of your kingdom around your world. Amen.