

THE GROWING SEED

Mark 4 : 26 - 29

Retold by Elsie Rempel, illustrated by Allison Froese

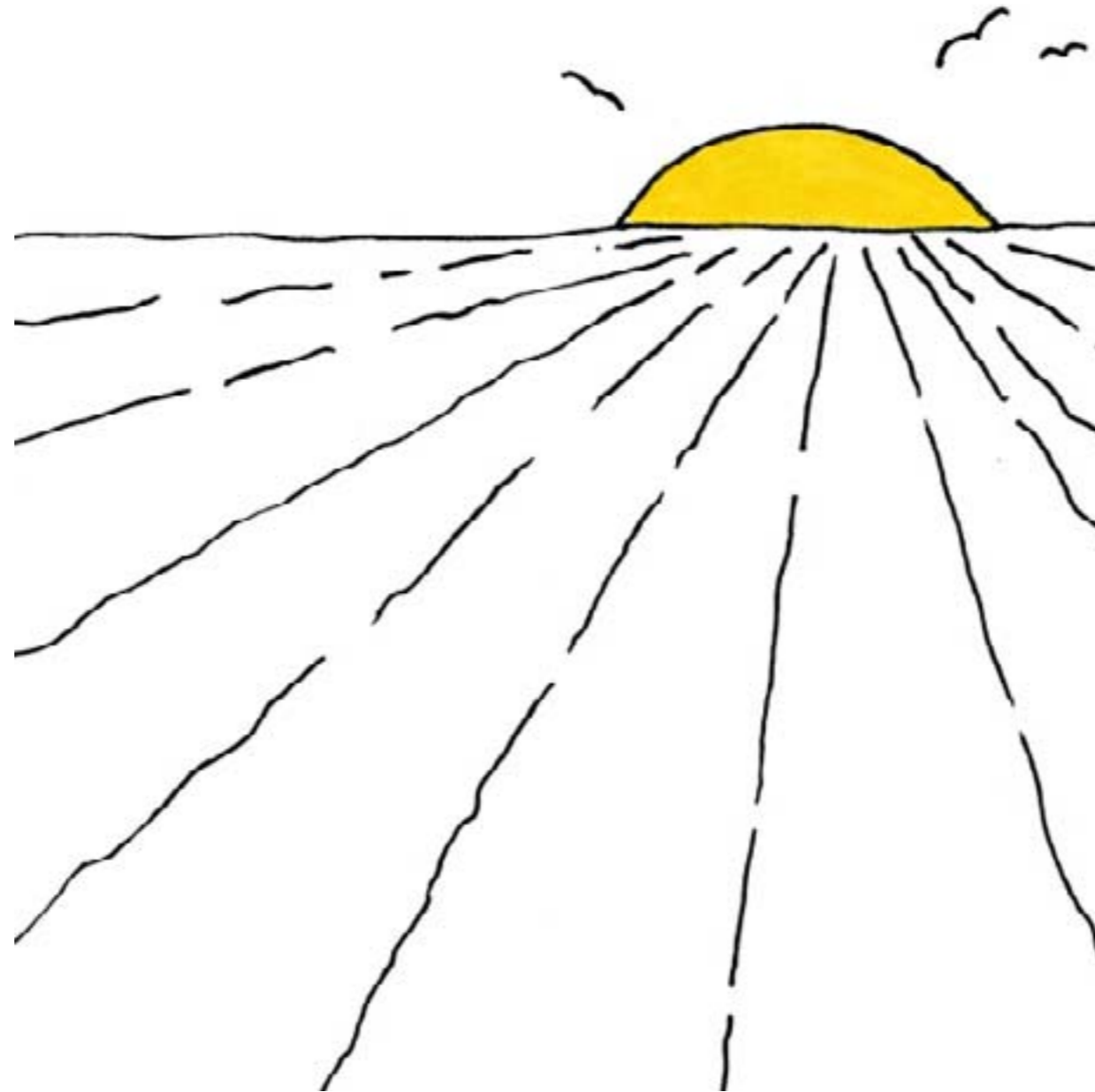




A long time ago, a crowd of curious listeners and friends gathered around the master story teller named Jesus. The curious listeners and friends gathered around Jesus, just like children gather for a story in church. Jesus wanted to help people know and trust that God is in charge.



So Jesus told the curious listeners and friends this story.
When you trust that God is in charge, you are like a gardener who does
what gardeners do.
You scatter seeds on the ground so they can grow.



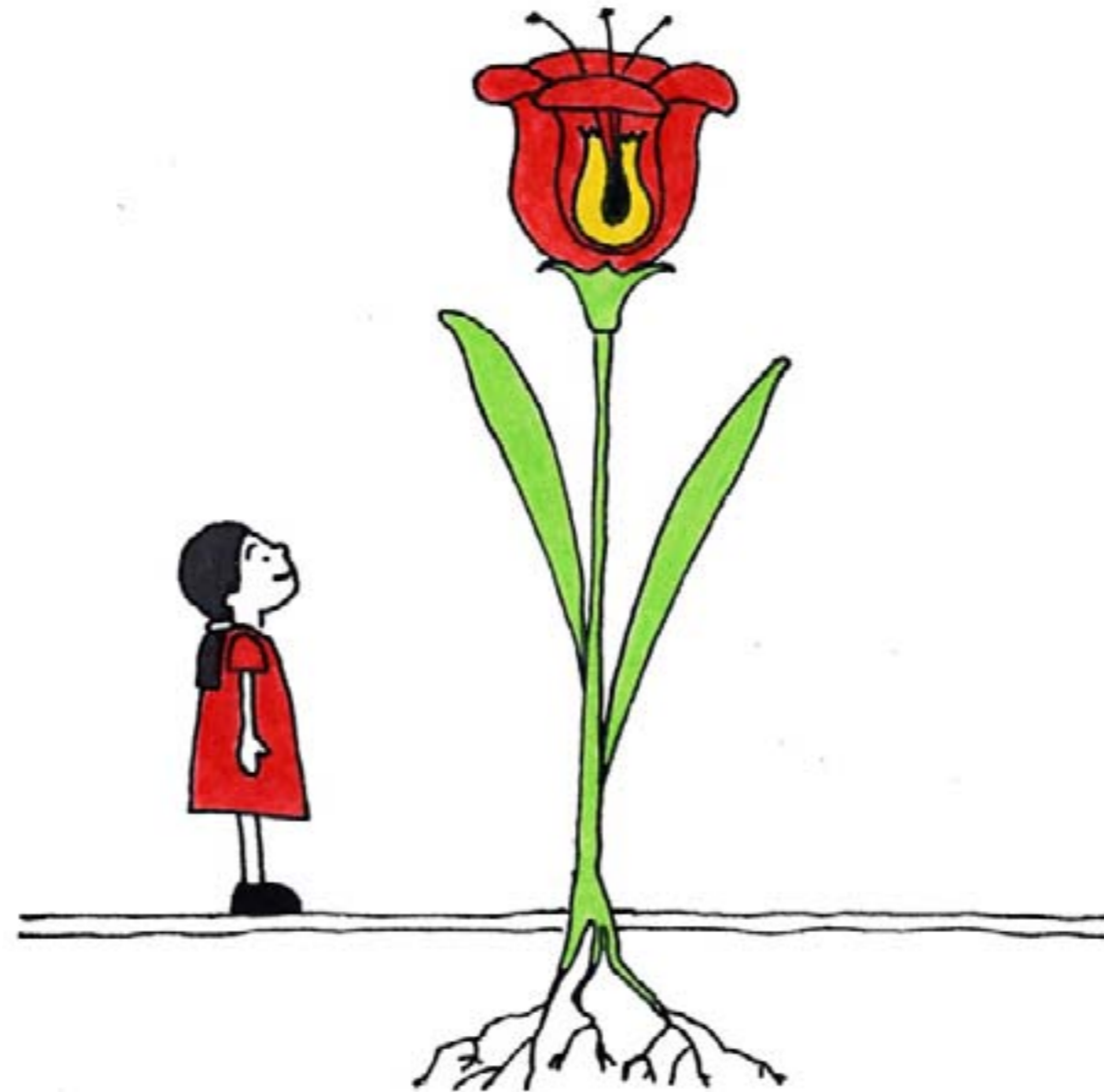
After you finish seeding, you go home and leave the seeds there lying in the ground. The ground looks almost the same. Seeds are tiny, and people walking by can't always tell that anything has happened.



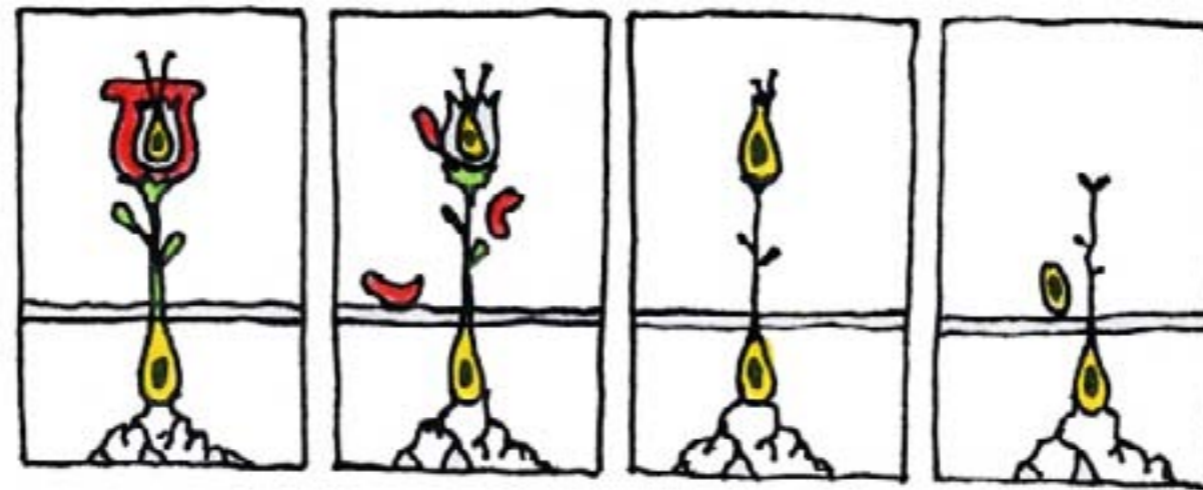
But a mystery is beginning. The gardener knows that the secret, mysterious miracle of new plants is beginning and he goes to sleep. The gardener sleeps, trusting the way God has with seeds everywhere. It's a strange thing! God's good seeds even grow right under the noses of evil governments.



Seeds are amazing! You can eat them and feel the energy they contain. You can plant them too. With warmth and light from the sun, with moisture from the soil, they start sending down roots. The roots keep them in place and help them drink the nutritious waters God sends to the earth.



After the roots go down, the shoots come up, and up and up!
They grow lovely leaves and flowers. Did you know that even
grass has tiny flowers? Deep inside all those flowers, new seeds
start to form.



The seeds keep growing after the flower falls off, until the gardener goes out again and harvests the new seeds. We can see plants grow, and if we're really quiet, maybe we can even hear them grow. We know seeds grow and make more seeds, but how seeds do this remains a wonderful mystery.



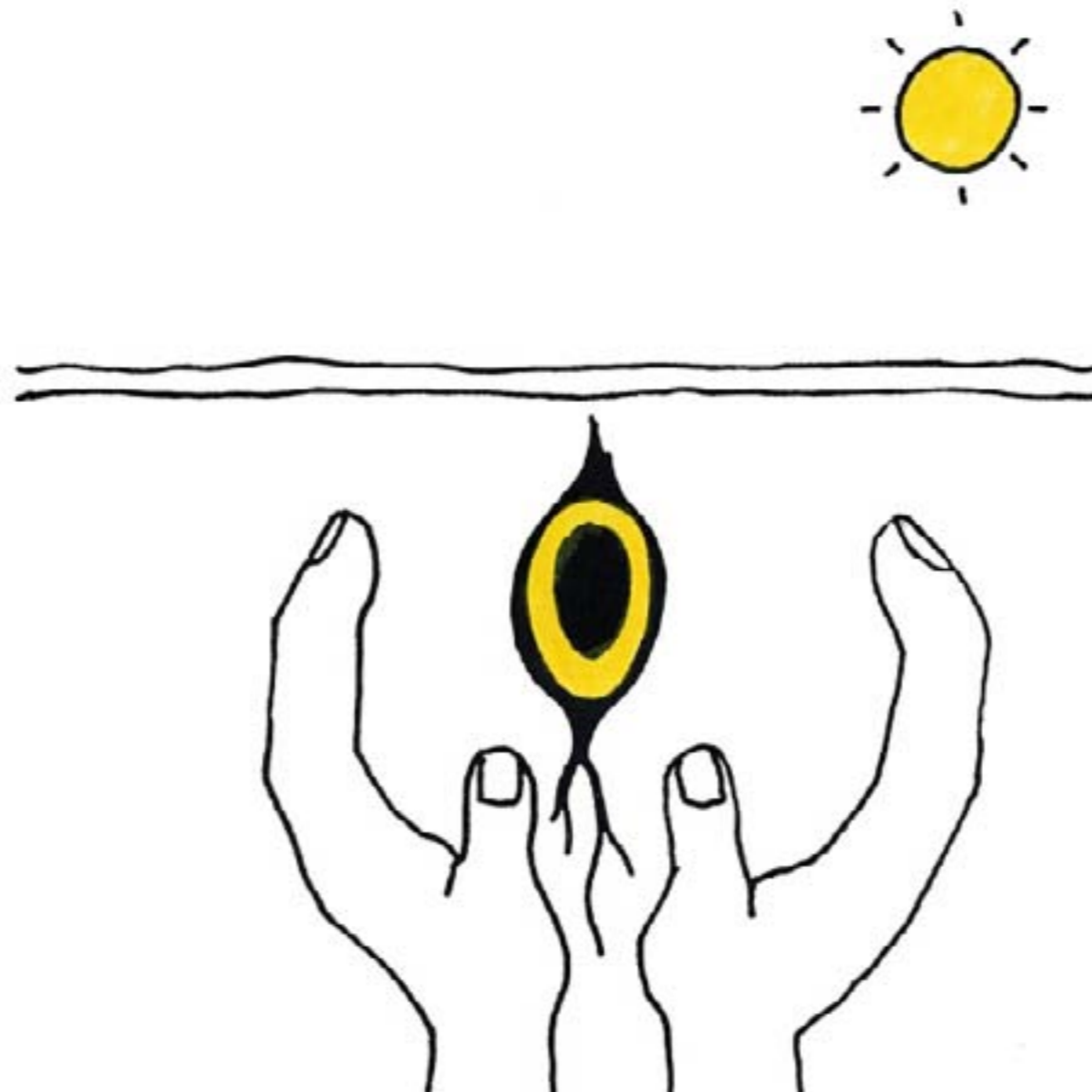
We can also trust that God is the one who controls the growing of seeds.
God invites us to sow seeds too. That is a wonderful mystery!
What happens when we trust that God is growing seeds in each of us?
...in the church? ...all over the world? Great things can happen!



Jesus finished many stories by saying that we should use our ears to listen and our eyes to see. Jesus wants us to understand. He wants us to really listen and think.



I wonder how Jesus' followers are like this gardener.
What kinds of things does Jesus want us to plant?
What should we do after we finish planting?
And how should we feel about leaving the tiny seeds we sow?



I'm so glad God is in charge of making the tiny seeds we plant grow, aren't you? I'm glad, because God understands the mystery of making things grow, because it's God's very own mystery.

Thanks for using your ears to listen and your eyes to see.



We can all plant seeds of love, seeds of grace, seeds of joy and seeds of peace.
And, just like the gardener, we can trust God to make them grow in ways we can't even imagine.