



## You will need...

- 2 volunteer children
- A real plant or branch (or picture) showing how a fruit or vegetable grows.
- A plastic syringe (without a needle) and a paint brush
- 3 fresh vegetables/fruit with a tin and a jar of food
- A Bible (NIV version is quoted below)

## The story

Character/Actions	Lines
	Good morning, it is great to be here for this Assembly. My name is X, I'm here from X Church
	I once had a meal at a friend's house. He told me that the vegetables I was eating had all been grown in his garden. I found that amazing! I asked him how he did it. I told him that I would love to learn. Do you know what he told me to do? He said that I just had to push a seed into the ground! He said that it's that simple!
Show the plant that you have brought or along, or the picture you have	So I did. Here is a plant that I've taken out of my garden. I pulled it out this morning to show you. A few months ago, I pushed a seed into the ground, and now look! Now do you know, when I saw it growing, what I did?



<p>Show the children the syringe and the paint brush</p> <p>Pause</p>	<p>Every day I went out with my little syringe and I filled it with all the nutrients, all the food, you need to grow a plant and I injected it into the stem and then as the plant grew I got my green paint and I started to paint it each day. Do you think that is what I did? Do you think I fed it and I painted it?</p> <p>You know I didn't, of course I didn't!</p> <p>The soil gave it all the good things it needed, the sun helped it turn the right colour. I didn't get a paintbrush out and I didn't get a syringe out. I didn't even get a watering can out. Because the rain from the sky fell and it grew all on its own.</p>
<p>Choose two volunteers, older than 6 years old. Ask for their names- X and Y.</p>	<p>Now there was a parable Jesus told that was exactly like this. A parable is a story that Jesus told to help us understand. Now I need two helpers for this. I wonder if you could help me and be in my story.</p> <p>X, I wonder if you could be my seed and Y, I wonder if you could be my farmer?</p>
<p>Reading out of a Bible</p>	<p>Now let's listen to the story and I'll tell you exactly what you need to do. It's in the Bible, in the book of Mark, Chapter 4, if you want to read it at home.</p> <p>Here is what Jesus said: "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground."</p>
	<p>Now, Farmer X, can we just quietly put Y into the ground. Y, can you crouch down like a seed. Crouch down into a little ball on the floor. Farmer X, has planted his seed on the ground, well done Farmer X.</p>
<p>Reading out of a Bible</p>	<p>"Night and day whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows though he does not know how."</p>



<p>Point to a piece of floor to the side</p>	<p>Farmer X, I would like you to go and have a sleep over here because it is night time. So Farmer X lies down and while he is asleep Jesus says the seed starts to sprout.</p>
<p>To crouching Y</p> <p>Encourage X to stand up and visit the seed</p> <p>Running over to Y, encouraging him/her to stand up a bit more</p> <p>Send him back to his "bed" again</p>	<p>Y the seed, can you just start to sprout? Perfect, beautiful! You keep sprouting.</p> <p>Farmer X gets up. You come over and look at your seed. Can you scratch your head? Because he is thinking "in the night this seed has sprouted on its own". He goes off during the day and does farmer things over here.</p> <p>Y, quick you do a bit more growing!</p> <p>Farmer X before he goes to bed comes back and... Scratch your head X! It's grown again! Farmer X goes to bed.</p>
<p>Place a vegetable in his/her outstretched hand</p>	<p>Y, you stand up now, you stand up like a plant, very slowly. Now, lift your arms up. There you are. I'm just going to give you something to grow on the end.</p> <p>Right, Farmer X gets up the next morning, he comes over to Y. Scratch your head again Farmer X. Farmer X is thinking "look, my plant has now got a vegetable on it" but he doesn't know how it happened.</p>
<p>Reading out of a Bible</p> <p>Pulling the vegetable out of Y's hand</p> <p>Ask your volunteers to sit back down.</p>	<p>"All by its self the soil produces corn. First the stalk, then the ear then the full grain in the ear. As soon as the grain is ripe he puts a sickle to it because the harvest has come."</p> <p>Farmer X has his vegetables to take to market to sell and the soil and the seed have done all this on their own. Could you please give X and Y a big round of applause?</p>



Hold up a fresh vegetable/fruit  
Take answers

Hold up a different fresh  
vegetable/fruit  
Take answers

Hold up your tin, and then your jar. Take answers, then explain what food is in each. So if it's a tin of pineapple- explain that it's a pineapple and a farmer in a hotter country than ours grew it. If it's a tin of pasta sauce, you can explain that it's mostly made from tomatoes. You're making the point that, no matter what the container looks like, it is still grown by a farmer, somewhere in the world.

Now this is a time of year which we call "harvest". It's the time of the year when the crops that have been growing through the Spring and Summer are brought in before the Autumn arrives. (If you live in a city, you may want to explain that you do not get to see the farmers being busy in their fields but in the countryside it really has been happening!)

Do you what this vegetable/fruit is called?

Do you what this vegetable/fruit is called?

A farmer has grown these for me. I got them out of my fridge!

This one's going to be trickier, do you know what this is?



<p>Holding up the paint brush</p> <p>Holding up the syringe</p>	<p>This is a time of year we remember the hard work of farmers. But you know, the farmers would tell us they agree with Jesus,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't know everything about how their crops grow</li> <li>• They don't have to paint their carrots orange or their aubergines purple</li> <li>• They didn't have to squeeze in just the right nutrients to help them grow</li> <li>• They didn't walk around with bright torches to help them grow- the sun did that for them.</li> </ul>
<p>Reading from the Bible</p>	<p>Christians know that God sends the sun and the rain and he knows exactly how every seed grows and he is not surprised by what grows in my garden. In fact if you listen carefully, Jesus starts this story by saying "this is what the kingdom of God is like."</p> <p>Jesus' Kingdom, his Church, his people, are growing around the world just like crops in a field. We don't know how it happens but Churches all over the world are slowly growing and Jesus is in charge. Today, there are more than 2 Billion Christians all around the world, and Jesus is in charge of those Churches growing.</p>



**For Key Stage 1**

Well done for listening so well. If you have any questions you can ask me know. If you have anything you want to tell me, you can say now. Maybe you are growing something in your garden?

**For Key Stage 2**

In some schools, they collect non-perishables for the local foodbank. Or they have special songs they sing. Or they could visit a farm or write to a farmer to thank them for their hard work

Thank you very much for listening. I wonder if you have any questions? I wonder if there is something I said that surprised you? I wonder if there is something you want to tell the rest of us? Or Can you tell me different ways that we can celebrate Harvest this year? What could we do to celebrate Harvest?

I'm going to pray now. Prayer is just talking to God. You can pray anywhere. I'm going to close my eyes and put my hands together to help me to concentrate. If you don't want to pray, please can you sit quietly and think about something that I have said?

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank you for the farmers all around the world, who work so hard to make sure that we have enough food. Thank you that at Harvest time, they gather in the food we need for the coming Winter. Thank you that you understand exactly how everything grows, giving us the rain, sunshine and nutrients that the plants need. Thank you that while the farmers work hard, you are the one who makes things grow. Amen