

## Here We Come!

Ask parents to share baby pictures of the children in the class. If a new baby is available, ask the parents to bring the child to class for a brief question and answer session. Pictures of baby animals can also be used to illustrate small beginnings. Children can match the baby to the adult animal.

## Scripture Words and Worship

The opportunity to grow and learn is a wonderful gift from God. No matter how we start out, we eventually change. And in the process, new discoveries are made. Jesus said it was a good thing in John with the words, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."—John 10:10

Print the words from the Alma scripture on ascending outlines of children.

## Story Talking

Let the children tell stories about their childhood memories as they work on other projects.

## Moving Music

- "We're Not Too Small" (page 22)
- "The Wiggle Song" (page 24)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (page 13)

## Up and at 'Em

- Pretend to be a seed growing and stretching into a plant.
- Take a walk to see a tree that grew from a tiny seed.
- Play treasure hunt, and find something hidden in the classroom.

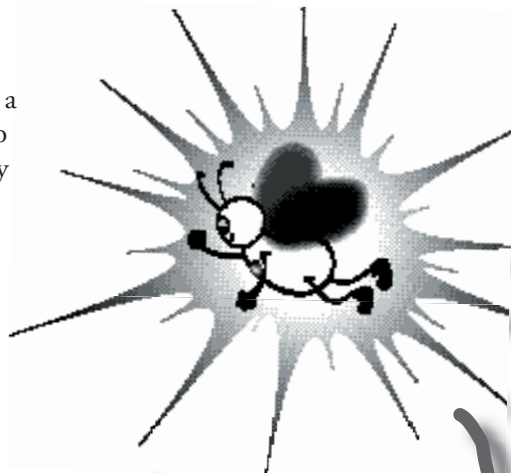
## Sense-ations

Tape a large sheet of butcher paper to the wall, vertically. Have a child hold a baby doll upright on the floor next to the wall. Trace around the doll. Use a slightly larger doll, and trace that outline in the same place. Add the children, one at a time. Use a different color marker for each child, and label the color with the child's name so they can pick out their individual outlines. Invite a sampling of children from other classes to add their outline to the collection. Teens and adults can also be contributors.

Make bread, rolls, and cookies with play dough.

## There We Go

Encourage the children to share things they did and learned in class today. Ask parents to take a tour of the room to see some of the examples.



# From Small Beginnings

Everything starts out small. What it grows into makes the difference.

## Scripture Words

A good seed...sprouts and begins to grow.  
—Alma 16:157

## Live and Learn

Have available mustard seeds, acorns, or other seeds from nearby trees; a package of dry yeast; a cup of warm water; and a packet of sugar.

The scripture story comes from Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52. It contains several examples designed to help people understand something about the kingdom. The first two are about growing and expanding. The next two are about the value of the kingdom. The last has to do with the sorting process after all are gathered in. Use the first four, along with concrete representations to explore the text.

- Jesus liked to talk to people about what it would be like to live with God. He talked about how people would treat each other. Everyone would be happy, enjoy sharing, and care about others.
- But it was hard to imagine how that could be when there were still bad things that happened. When someone was mean, or refused to share, or hurt another person, it was hard to believe the peaceful, loving kingdom was possible.
- “You can make a difference,” Jesus said. “Just do the things I taught you and love each other.”
- “But how will that change anything?” people asked. “There are so few of us doing good things and so many doing bad things.”
- “Think of yourself like a tiny mustard seed. It is so small it’s hard to see and hold. But once it’s put in the ground and allowed to sprout and grow, it becomes a big plant, higher than your head. Even birds can land in the top of it.”
- The people knew what Jesus meant. They had planted mustard seeds and watched them grow.
- “You mean if we are kind and share, others will notice and start being kind and share too?”
- “That’s right,” Jesus assured them. “And there will be more and more and more people doing what God wants, until this love spreads and fills the world.”

After Jesus told that story, he and the disciples went into a nearby home for dinner. The woman of the house was working with dough, making bread. She mixed together flour, water, and oil. But if she baked bread from these ingredients, the bread would be flat like a tortilla. (Show one.) To make the bread rise and look like a loaf, she would have to add some leaven. In Bible times, the leaven was moved from loaf to loaf. Each time bread was baked, a little bit of dough was saved back and not cooked. That little bit of dough was then added to the next flour, water, and oil mixture when the woman baked. That little bit of leftover dough would make the whole new bowl of dough rise.

It’s hard to see yeast rising inside dough. It works slowly and may take an hour or more. But we can see what happens to yeast in an experiment. Use a glass measuring cup and follow the directions on a package of dry yeast for the amount of water. Warm water encourages the process, but hot water can kill the yeast, inhibiting any action. Let the children pour the grains of yeast into the water. Some will fall to the bottom and some will stay on the top to soften. By adding sugar, the process speeds up as the yeast feeds on the sugar. Try it before class to see how long it takes for it to begin to mushroom in the cup. The smell will become apparent as the yeast grows.

- Jesus wanted the people to know how precious the kingdom was. It would be wonderful to be where there were no poor or hungry people, no pain or hurting, and where everyone shared and cared for each other.
- “It’s like finding a treasure hidden in a field,” he told them. “Would you be excited if you found a treasure? What would you do with the treasure? Would you keep it for yourself or share it with others?”
- “I would like to share,” said a man, “but what if there wasn’t enough treasure to go around?”
- “That will never be a problem with the kingdom of heaven,” Jesus said. “With God there is always enough and to spare.”
- “How do people find the kingdom?” someone asked.
- “It’s like a merchant who sells precious pearls. Divers search for oysters in the ocean, hoping to find a pearl inside. The divers bring their pearls to the merchant, who buys them to sell to others. People are so happy when they own a beautiful pearl.
- “But finding the kingdom is like finding the biggest, most beautiful pearl that ever was,” said Jesus. “Nothing is more valuable than being a part of the kingdom of God.”