

Secret Growth:

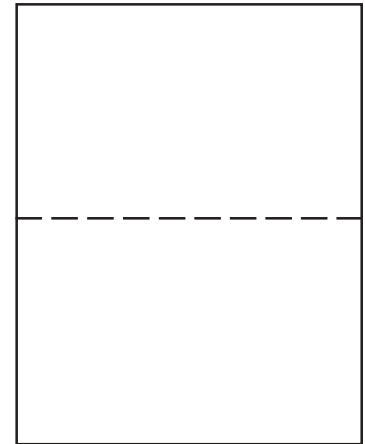
Folded Drawing Projects

These projects illustrate ideas presented in the short parable in Mark 4:26-29.

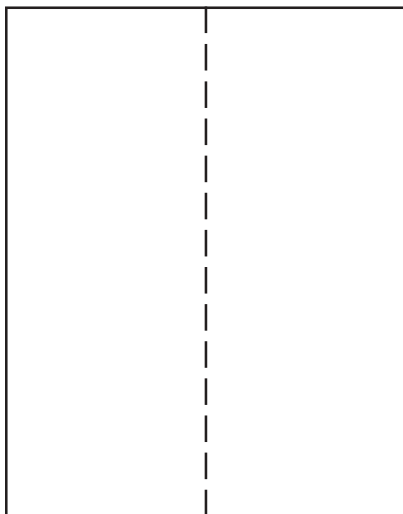
We know that the for seeds of truth to grow in us we must do our part of the work which is like preparing the soil and caring for a plant. However, we don't really know how truth grows into good in our lives, anymore than we can see exactly how a plant grows and brings forth flowers and fruits. This is because, although we must cooperate with Him, the Lord is the One who really does the work and makes the seeds of truth grow and flourish in our minds and hearts.

Instructions for Project on Seeing the Roots Below:

- ❁ Have the child take a piece of paper and fold it in half as shown.
- ❁ With the fold on the bottom, representing the line of the ground, draw a plant coming up.
- ❁ Have the child draw a person tending the plant, perhaps raking the soil around it or watering the plant.
- ❁ Now ask the child to draw the plant bigger and add flowers and fruit to it. This pictures what we can see.
- ❁ But we know that this would never happen unless the Lord was also taking care of the plants in hidden ways, for example causing the roots to grow as a basis for it.
- ❁ Have the child unfold the paper and draw the roots growing, hidden under the soil. Make them strong and deep. This is what lets the part of the plant we see grow healthily.



Instructions for Seeing The Lord's Part and Our Part in Growing:



- ❁ Have the child fold a piece of paper in half as shown at left.
- ❁ Draw a line across both halves to represent the ground.
- ❁ On one side of the paper, have the child draw a seed with a little root and a little shoot coming from it.
- ❁ Have the child draw a picture of him or herself tending the plant. Just like the man in the parable, we must do our part in making the seeds of truth grow in our lives.
- ❁ But we know that nothing would happen unless the Lord was secretly doing much more.
- ❁ Have the child unfold the paper now and on the other side draw the Lord caring for the seedling.
- ❁ Have the child add more roots on both sides of the page and make the plant above the ground bigger with branches full of flowers and fruit.
- ❁ See what the Lord and you can do together!