

United Methodist Student Day

Children's Sermon

Preparation

Bring a potted plant, seeds and a watering can. You could also have gardening gloves and a spade if you would like to pass around more objects as you talk with the children.

Message

Greet the children as you typically do. Hold the plant for them to look at it or point to where you placed it. Say: **I brought something to help us this morning! What is it?** Allow the children to answer before moving to the next question. Say: **Can anyone tell me how a plant grows?** Take some answers. Then say: **A plant grows from a tiny seed planted under the earth. With the right amount of water and light, the seed becomes a fully grown plant.** Pass around the items as you talk so the children can touch and feel the objects as you speak.

Say: **Now that this plant is fully grown, do we have to do anything with it? Are we finished watering it? Does it still need light?** Take some answers and then say: **This plant still needs water and sunlight, even if it is fully grown. We, like this plant, will grow up. At some point, we will stop growing tall on the outside, but we still need to keep growing on the inside. Our hearts and our minds can keep growing throughout our whole lives.**

In the spring, we celebrated with the older youth who graduated from high school. Now we call them "adults." Do you think they are done growing? They are not. We started helping some of them to learn about following Jesus when they were your age – and even younger.

Today is United Methodist Student Day. Today we ask people to pray and to make gifts that help students keep growing – on the inside. Together, our church and other United Methodist churches around the world work together to give money so students will have the opportunity to go to college and to take classes that will help them grow in their hearts and their minds. Then they will be ready to tell other people about following Jesus.

Closing Prayer

God of wisdom, we pray for those who want to share the good news about God's love. Give them wisdom and opportunities to learn and grow. Amen.