

THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SAYS

WEEK SIX · A DEVOTION FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

God Works in Mysterious Ways

— or does it?

ISAIAH 55:6–13 · MARK 4:26–29

A seed. A little bit of dirt. And a story about a farmer who doesn't understand exactly how growing works — and doesn't need to. Use this together as a family, or hand pieces to different ages around the table.

First Christian Church · Highland, Indiana · September 20, 2026

The Big Idea

Have you ever heard someone say, "Well, God works in mysterious ways"? That's not actually a Bible verse — it's just something people started saying a long time ago. And sometimes it gets used the wrong way, like a way of saying "stop asking questions."

But Jesus told a story about a farmer who plants a seed and doesn't understand how it grows. He just waters it, sleeps, gets up, and one day — it's grown! Nobody sees the actual growing happen. Not even the smartest farmer.

That's the good kind of mystery: not a locked door, but something wonderful happening quietly, even when we can't watch it. This week, we're going to practice trusting that God is still working, even in the parts we can't see.

TOGETHER: THE SEED JAR

Plant a bean or sunflower seed together in a small clear cup with dirt, right at the start of this week. Set it somewhere sunny. Water it a little each day, but here's the challenge: don't dig it up to check on it. Just wait. By the end of the week, talk together about what you noticed — and what you couldn't see happening underneath.

TALK IT OVER

Questions By Age

Pick the questions that fit your family, or work down through all of them together.

AGES 4–6

- *What do you think a seed needs to grow?*
- *Can you see a seed growing if you watch it really, really hard?*
- *Who takes care of you even when you can't see them working?*

AGES 7–11

- *Jesus said the farmer "knows not how" the seed grows. Why do you think Jesus put that detail in the story?*
- *Has something in your life ever changed slowly, so slowly you almost didn't notice until it was different?*
- *Have you ever heard "God works in mysterious ways" used to end a conversation instead of help it? What could someone say instead?*

TEENS

- *Where's a place in your life right now where you're waiting for something to grow, and it's hard not to check on it constantly?*
- *Isaiah 55 says God's ways are "higher," not hidden. What's the difference between a God who's confusing and a God who's just more generous than you expected?*
- *Has anyone ever used "mystery" to avoid answering a real question you had about faith? How did that feel?*

WHOLE FAMILY

- *What's one thing our family is "planting" right now that we might not see grow for a while?*
- *What would it look like for us to trust God with something we don't understand this week?*

BEFORE YOU GO

A Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for seeds and dirt and things that grow even when we're asleep. Thank you that you don't need us to understand everything for you to keep working. Help our family trust you with the parts we can't see. Amen.

ONE MORE THING TO TRY

Each night this week, ask one person at the table: "What's one thing that grew today that you didn't get to watch happen?" It could be as simple as noticing you're taller, or a friendship that feels a little stronger, or just that today felt a little easier than yesterday. Let that be your family's small, ongoing way of noticing God at work.