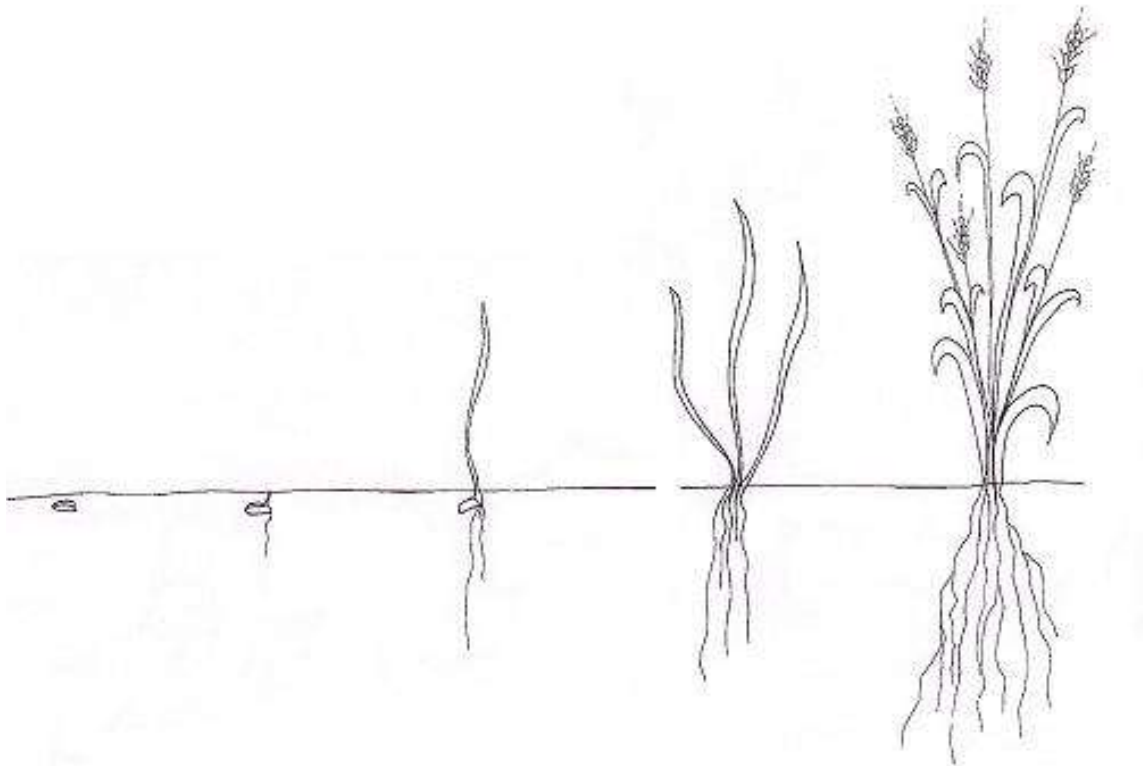


The Mystery of Life and Death...

The Grain of Wheat



Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:24



This work is best begun at the beginning of Lent. There are clear jars in which seeds are planted... about two weeks apart.

First Moment [On or near Ash Wednesday]

Today we are beginning a work called the Mystery of Life and Death.

There are three jars, and we are going to plant some seeds in the first pot. We will be looking after these – watering them and giving them some sun.

Plant the seeds. (If you prefer, each child can have their own set of jars.)

Plant the second jar in two weeks and the final jar just before Easter.

Second Moment (After Easter)

Today, we are going to look at the seeds we have planted and see what has happened to them...

Jesus told us a story about this... He told us what happens when a seed falls on the ground and dies.

Light a candle. Read John. 12:24.

“Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

John 12:24. **Snuff the candle.**

What does this mean?

Let's look at a seed before it's planted. If it stays on the plate, what happens?

Point to a seed that has just been left on a plate.

It's just going to stay a single seed.

What will happen if it is planted, watered and given sunshine? ...

Yes, it grows; it becomes something else.

When the seed is changes into a plant, it makes many new seeds.

When the seed dies, it doesn't just go away, it becomes something more beautiful.

Let's brush away from this and we can see the seed....

Take one of the most recently planted seeds and brush away the soil. The seed is still there, but it is changing.

Now let's try the big plant...

Take out one of the biggest plants that were planted earliest, brush away the soil. There should be no seed left.

Look at this - a great change has taken place.

That is what happens when someone has died... a great change takes place.

This is what happened to Jesus at his resurrection on Easter Sunday. His body was changed into something even more beautiful.

This is what resurrection means. Look at the chart of the changes that happen in a seed.

