



# Milestones

## Seed Planting

Seeds are a common metaphor in the Bible. They invite conversations about hope, promise, and expectation. They can symbolize growing, transformation, and production.

This devotion is designed to be used with the activity of planting seeds. This may be done in the late winter or early spring by starting seeds that will be transplanted outside in the spring, planting seeds directly into the ground after the threat of frost is past or planting seeds for a potted plant. Another alternative is to do this activity around the first of the year with tulip bulbs that will be grown indoors and ready for Easter. Search the internet on suggestions for “forcing bulbs.”

When used as part of starting seeds to be planted in the garden later, this devotion pairs nicely with the Garden Blessing Milestone. Be sure to have that one for when you transplant your seedlings into the garden.

Items you will need for this devotion:

- Potting soil
- Containers. Any small container works well. You can reuse trays and flats from previous years. Another alternative is to use the empty cardboard toilet paper rolls. Search “newspaper seed starting pots” for instructions on how to make containers out of newspaper.
- Seeds

Timing: Check your seeds to determine when to start them. Depending upon the variety, late March through April is most common.

[www.PeaceLutheranSparta.org](http://www.PeaceLutheranSparta.org)

**Milestone conversation:** If you have a milestones blessing bowl, find the New Beginnings Milestone. Invite everyone to share a story about their experience with something new recently.

**Caring Conversation:** Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- Something that I need to be able to grow is . . .
- When I grow up, I hope to be able to . . .

**Devotions:** Read the following:

*Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”(Mark 4:26-32)*

- How does God help seeds grow? What does God provide?
- How might you use a seed to describe God’s love?
- Growing seeds is a partnership between God, the seed, and ourselves. How does being in partnership make you feel?

**Service:** As you are discussing and answering the questions, you can be planting seeds:

- Fill each container you plan to use with potting soil. Some suggest moistening the soil before filling the containers.
- Following the instructions on the seed packet (some seeds like to be covered in soil, others prefer to be sown on top), add the seeds to the soil.
- Water the containers so that the soil is completely moist.
- Place in a warm place with plenty of sun.

You may like to plant a few extra seed containers to give to someone else.

**Rituals and Traditions:** After you have diminished starting your seeds, give them a blessing: Holy God, who causes all things to grow and provides all good things, bless these seeds and the plants that they will grow into. Help us to tend them well. Amen