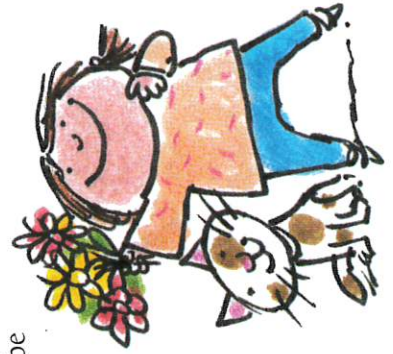


Family Page

In many parts of the country, new spring growth is just beginning. Point out how the flowers and leaves and bushes all seem to die in the winter — only to burst into life again in the spring. To emphasize the “new life” message of Jesus this week, the family can work together on a GARDEN OF LOVE poster.

- 1 A piece of poster board is ideal for this project, but a large piece of paper or even a grocery bag will do.
- 2 Write across the top of your poster: GARDEN OF LOVE.
- 3 Cut out pictures of different kinds of flowers from magazines, or draw, color, and cut out your own flower designs.
- 4 Each time someone in the family does a kind deed for someone else, paste a flower onto the poster.
- 5 Keep adding to your poster for the next two weeks. This way it should be filled and lovely for Easter.

Day by day, your poster will become prettier and prettier. And every day you will be growing stronger in your new life of love.



explaining GOD'S WORD

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B) • John 12:20–33 • March 21, 2021



What will grow here?

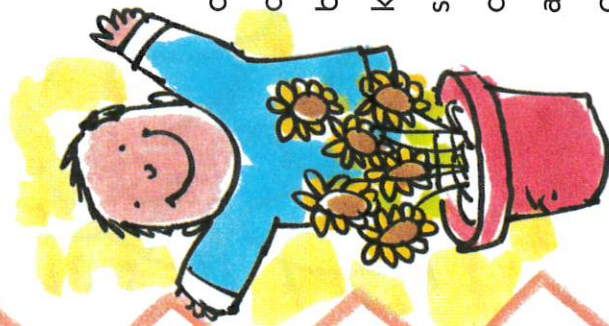
Find the seeds scattered on this page. Using a yellow crayon, fill in every space where there is a seed. You will discover a hidden surprise.

Garden of Love

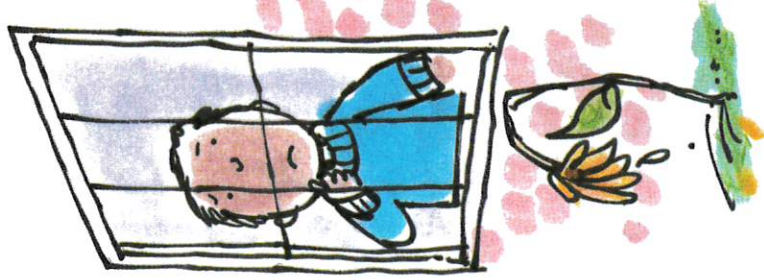
Tony lived in the city. He had never seen a country garden or walked in a field of golden wheat. But outside Tony's window grew a lovely yellow wild flower. Just seeing this flower every morning made Tony feel happy all day.



When winter came, the flower died. This made Tony very sad. Tony's mother shook the tiny seeds from the blossom into her hands. "Plant them," she said to her son. Tony put the seeds into a pot and covered them with dirt.



Every day Tony checked his flowerpot; day after day nothing happened. "My flower is dead," Tony thought. "Nothing can ever bring it back." Still, all through the long winter, Tony kept the dirt moist. Finally, one day in early spring, tiny green sprouts pushed through the dirt. Then tiny buds appeared on the sprouts and soon became bright yellow blossoms. Six of them! More beautiful than before.



In this week's gospel story, Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." He meant that just as a seed will fall and then grow again in the spring, so he would have to die to the world to live a new and beautiful kind of life in the hearts of his people forever.

You too can live a new life, become a brand new YOU, by turning away from selfish things and doing kind things for others.

