

Family Faith

Chapter 19

The Kingdom of God

Jesus invites us to be part of the Kingdom of God.

Chapter Summary

In the parable of the mustard seed we learn that the Kingdom of God grew like a mustard seed. The Church is the seed of the Kingdom of God on earth (see CCC 541). All of those in Heaven who have come before us are also part of the Kingdom of God. The Church grew all over the world just from Twelve Apostles. Every time someone is baptized, that person is filled with God's life and the Church continues to grow. As baptized Catholics, we are part of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God also grows in our hearts as we learn to love God and one another more and more.

More for Parents

We hear a lot about the Kingdom of God in the prayers of the Church and in the Gospels, but many do not know how to bring that into everyday family life. The truth is, there is no better place than the home to teach about and form the Kingdom of God. The home is a school of Christian love where we can daily practice the fundamental ways of living the kingdom: forgiveness, honesty, self-sacrifice, humility, and small, steady growth in virtue. Through daily prayers, regular reading of the Bible—especially the Gospels—and participation in the life of the Church, we can follow the teachings of Christ our King. These may not seem out of the ordinary or heroic, but they are the necessary, daily work that nourishes the seed of faith in our lives and our children's lives. What steps can you take to build the Kingdom of God in your family?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear God, you have come to tell us your kingdom is here! You are Christ our King! Help us to let the kingdom grow in our hearts. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- **Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God grows like a _____.** (Mustard seed.)
- **What is the Kingdom of God on earth?** (The Church.)
- **Does the Church grow when people are baptized?** (Yes.)
- **What are some ways that we can help God's kingdom grow?** (Telling people about Jesus' love, acting like Jesus did, helping those in need, etc.)
- **Like a mustard seed grows, so does God's love in our _____.** (Hearts and souls.)

Let's Live Our Faith

If we are part of the Kingdom of God on earth, we should take care of all of God's people including the poor, the lonely, and the elderly. When we help the poor, the lonely, and the elderly, we are helping the Kingdom of God to grow.

- Discuss with your family the ways that you can show love to the poor, the lonely, and the elderly.

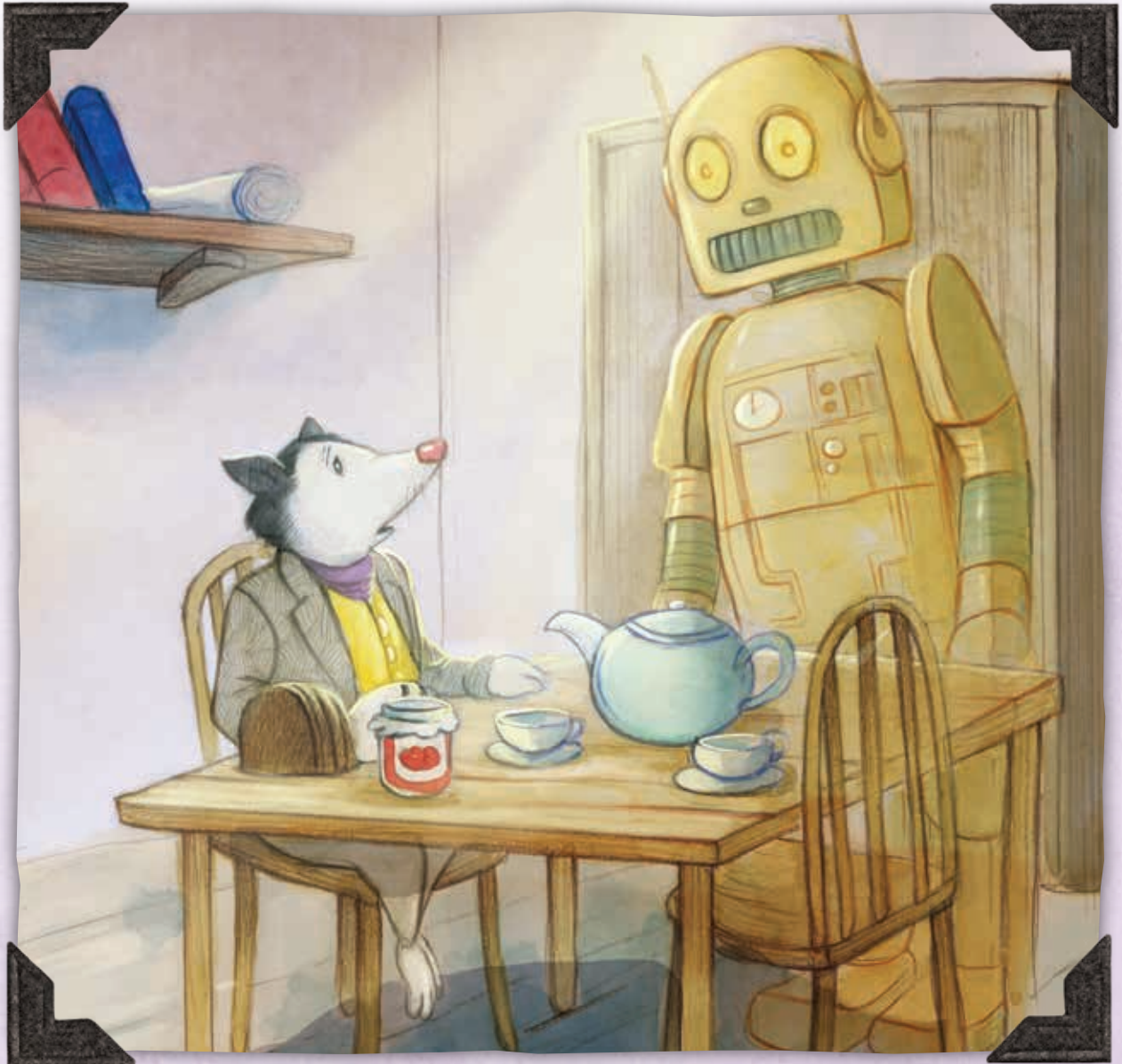
Family Faith Activities

Choose one or more of the following to do as a family:

- Nurture the virtue of love in your family through example. Choose any of the above ideas you came up with in the discussion to do as a Sunday family activity.
- Include the poor, the lonely, and the elderly in your family prayers.
- Read and discuss the Small Wonders story as a family at www.wordofliferies.org/parents.

For more family faith formation resources go to www.wordofliferies.org/parents.

Small Wonders



Percy discovers a startling secret.

Read the full Small Wonders story at www.wordoflifeseries.org/parents.