



Grow a Plant

WHAT YOU NEED

- A packet of seeds (you'll want an easy, quick-growing plant like sunflowers)
- Water
- Sun
- Potting soil
- Dark cupboard
- 2 small flowerpots

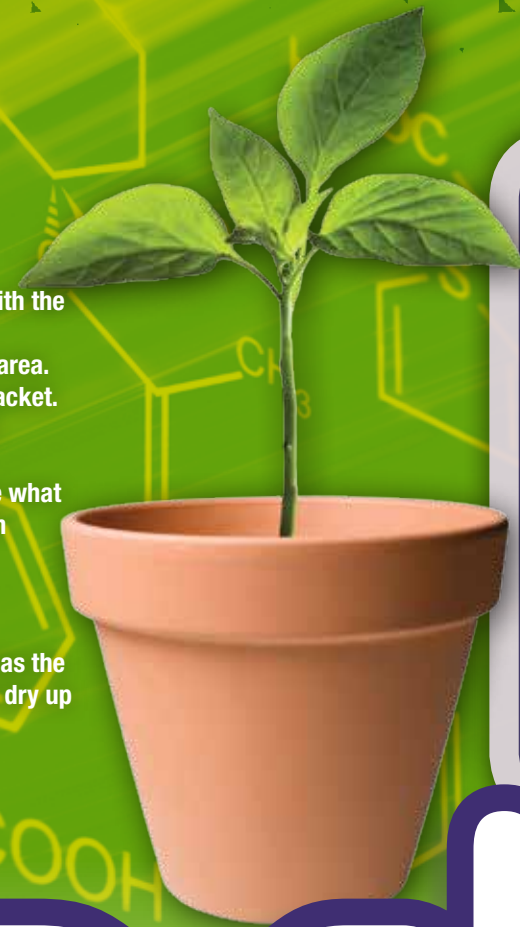
PROCEDURE

1. Fill the two pots with potting soil. Leave about one inch from the top unfilled.
2. Use your thumb to make a hole in the center of the soil of each pot.

3. Drop a few seeds into each hole and cover with the surrounding soil.
4. Add water to one pot and place it in a sunny area. Follow the watering directions on the seed packet.
5. Do not water the other pot. Place it in a dark cupboard.
6. Leave the pots for a few days and wait to see what happens. You'll discover one plant does much better than the other.

WHY THIS HAPPENS

The watered pot will grow a plant because it has the necessary nutrients to grow. The other plant will dry up and die because it lacks sunlight and water.



Did You Know?

- The General Sherman Tree, a giant sequoia, is 275 feet tall and 36.5 feet across at its base. Scientists estimate the tree to be 2,200 years old. That means it was already a big, 200-year-old tree around the time Jesus lived on earth before He returned to heaven. The General Sherman Tree weighs about 1,385 tons!
- Someone recently discovered a tiny orchid flower in Cundinamarca, Colombia. It is only about one-tenth of an inch across and very fragile. It blooms once a year for two months.

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God Wants You to

by Scott Harrup



When Jesus talked to people about living for God, He sometimes told stories about plants. Perhaps the best-known story Jesus told about plants is the Parable of the Sower. Jesus talked about a farmer who sowed, or planted, seed across a large field. Different things happened to the seeds that fell on different kinds of ground. (See Mark 4:1-20.)

Jesus said our lives are like different kinds of soil. When we believe God's Word and keep living for God, God's Word is like a seed that grows into a healthy plant in

our lives. But in His story, Jesus also talked about different things that can stop a plant from growing — birds that eat the seed, rocky soil that won't let the seed take root, and thorns that choke the plant. Jesus explained that there are things in our lives that can keep us from growing closer to God.

Think of the flowerpots in your experiment. They both held the same kind of seeds. The pot in the dark without water or sunshine was like the bad ground Jesus described. But if you were careful to water the other pot and keep it in the

sunshine, you saw a green plant begin to grow like the healthy plants Jesus talked about.

Jesus wants you to grow, just like those healthy plants. How does that happen? It starts when you receive the seed of God's Word and accept Jesus as your Savior. Then, as you keep learning more about the Bible, as you keep talking to God in prayer, as you keep telling your friends and family about Jesus, you'll grow into the wonderful person God designed you to be. **e**

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.