



Good Soil Surprises

The Bible stories we hear during Lent, Holy Week and Easter describe some choices and some surprises. People made choices about cheering for Jesus on Palm Sunday or giving Jesus up to be crucified. Who would expect that after all his suffering, Jesus would rise again? What a surprise! Making choices and seeing surprises are part of our wonderful faith journey. In this at-home activity, your family will be making some choices and see what surprises you!

Supplies

- 2 tulip bulbs
- Tall glass jar or drinking jar at least five inches in diameter
- Pebbles or river rocks
- Package of flower seeds such as Nasturtium, Shasta Daisy or Cosmos
- Mug
- Resealable sandwich bag
- Clear tape
- Paper towels
- A cup of sand
- Bean seeds
- Spray bottle full of water
- 1 cup of potting soil
- Recording drawing sheet
- Writing utensil

Instructions

Here are three fun ways to grow seeds. You may choose to do all three and compare the methods. If there are more kids in your family, each kid will be in charge of one project.

Hydroponic Project

1. Place four inches of pebbles or river rock in the bottom of a tall glass jar or drinking glass.
2. Pour water to just cover the stones.
3. Look at the two tulip bulbs. Which end is pointed? Which end is flat? Which end do you think will grow?
4. Place one bulb with the flat side down and the other with the pointed side down on top of the water and rocks.
5. Put your glass with bulbs in a sunny place.

6. Keep watering as needed so the rocks stay covered.
7. Use your recording sheet to write your daily observations or take pictures with a phone. Pay attention to both the top and bottom of the bulb. See if you were right about which one would grow first.

Sand Project

1. Place a folded paper towel and sand in three resealable plastic bags.
2. Add two tablespoons of water and two beans to each bag.
3. Seal the tops of the bags.
4. Use clear tape to tape each bag to a sunny window.
5. Check the bags daily. If they start to dry up, add a tablespoon of water.
6. Use your recording sheet to write your daily observations or take pictures with a phone.
7. Circle the day that each bean seed starts to grow. Did anything about these seeds surprise you?

Mug Project

1. Add damp potting soil to fill the mug about three-quarters full.
2. Place two seeds about an inch apart in the mug and cover with soil.
3. Put the mug in a sunny place.
4. Use the spray bottle to wet the top of the soil each day.
5. The recording sheet will help you to write your observations each day or take pictures with a phone.
6. Use the recording sheet to write your guess about when the seeds will start to grow.
7. How many days until a seed starts to grow? How close was your guess?

Pray this prayer each day. Do a "repeat each line" prayer for a few days. Then try to say the prayer yourself.

Creator God,
Thank you for giving us choices.
Help us to be grateful for all things that grow in soil.
May we always feel the wonderful surprises provided for us.
Amen.

Digging into Deeper Soil

- Look up Matthew 26:31-75. (If you have a Spark Story Bible, it's on page 468.) What surprises you about this story?
- Share a story about a good surprise. Are there ever bad surprises? How does each kind of seed sprouting surprise make you feel?

Good Soil Surprises Recording Sheet

	Water	Sand	Mug
Day 1			
Day 2			
Day 3			
Day 4			
Day 5			
Day 6			
Day 7			
Day 8			
Day 9			
Day 10			
Day 11			
Day 12			
Day 13			
Day 14			
Day 15			
Day 16			
Day 17			
Day 18			
Day 19			
Day 20			
Day 21			
Day 22			
Day 23			
Day 24			
Day 25			
Day 26			
Day 27			
Day 28			
Day 29			
Day 30			
Day 31			
Day 32			
Day 33			
Day 34			
Day 35			
Day 36			
Day 37			
Day 38			
Day 39			
Day 40			