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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, March 22, 2015

5th Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [John 12:20-33](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus is the seed that grows into the Church* ]

**Supplies Needed:** Pictures at end of .pdf. In place of the acorn picture, you might want to use real acorns, if you can find any.

**ASK** (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me what this is? [*show image #1 or real acorn(s)*]
- Yes, very good - they are acorns!
- So...can you tell me what acorns grow up to be? [ *oak trees* ]
- And what do you think -- If we dug up an oak tree, do you think the roots would look like this: [*Hold up image #2*] or like this [*Hold up image #3*]?
- More like this second picture, right?
- So tell me -- looking at this picture [image 3], where do you think the actual acorn *went*? (it grew up; it doesn't exist anymore)
- So what do you think, do you think the acorn stopped existing so that it could turn into a tree?
- It's almost like the acorn had to die before it could live as an oak tree, isn't it?

**TELL** (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- So, in today's scripture story, Jesus knows that he is getting closer to the time when he will be killed.
- And what he wants to do is help his disciples know how to think about his death and resurrection.

- One of the ways he does this is by telling them about a grain of wheat -- that it can't do what it is supposed to do -- which is grow into a plant -- unless it dies, first.
- At first, this seems sad, until we start to realize how much better the plant is than just the seed.
- The plant can offer all sorts of things like shade and food.
- It can even produce a whole bunch of more seeds, right?
- And oak tree, for instance, grows a whole bunch of more acorns, right?
- This is why I was talking earlier about acorns and oak trees – because it's the same idea that Jesus is talking about in today's story.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- It might seem like a funny way to think about him, but one way to think about Jesus is to think of him as a seed that then grew into the Church.
- And, if we choose to accept Jesus' invitation to follow him, then we, too, can learn from him how to help the church grow bigger, better, and stronger, just like Jesus did.
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who shows us...**

**...who shows us...**

**...how to grow in you.**

**...how to grow in you.**

**Amen**

Image 1

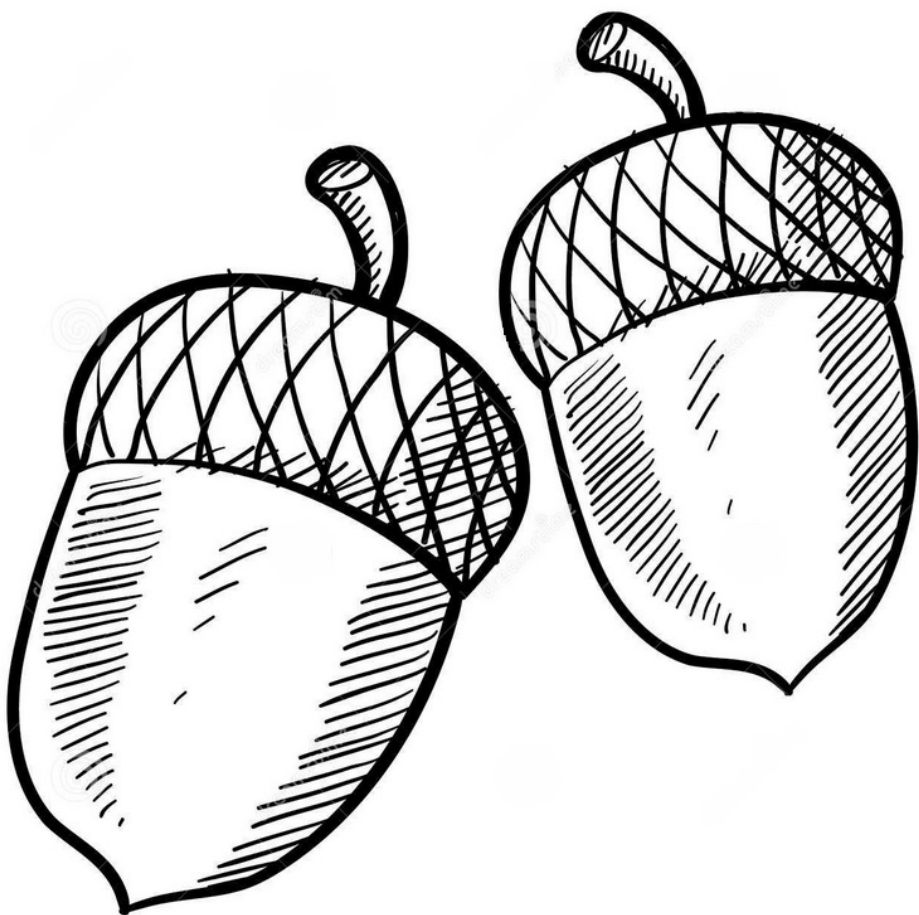


Image 2





*Image 3*