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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for March 21, 2021*

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*Lectionary Year B*

**Scripture:** [John 12:20-33](#) [Summary: *Jesus Explains His Death And Resurrection* ]

**Supplies Needed:** The pictures at the end of this PDF file. Or, you can use real acorns, if you can find some.

**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 (*image #3*), right?
- Can you tell me [*hold up image #3 again*] where you think the actual acorn *went*? (it grew up; the acorn doesn't exist anymore)
- So – what do you think, does an acorn have to stop being an acorn so that it can live as an oak tree?
- Yes, I think you are right – it does!

**TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- An acorn having to “stop” being an acorn so that it can live as an oak tree is a lot like the story we heard Jesus tell in today’s scripture passage.
- In the story, Jesus tells the disciples about a grain of wheat.

- He tells them that that grain of wheat can't do what it is supposed to do -- which is grow into a plant -- unless it stops being a grain of wheat.
- Jesus says that it's like the grain of wheat died.
- Now, this *is* a sad thing, that the grain of wheat has to die. But, living as a plant sounds much better than living as a tiny grain, as a seed.
- The plant can offer things the seed can't, like shelter, shade, and food.
- It can even grow more seeds – just like an oak tree grows more acorns.

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

- The reason Jesus is talking to the disciples about a grain of wheat dying so that it can become a plant is because Jesus knows that he will soon stop being Jesus in the way his disciples know him.
- Jesus knows he's going to die and then be resurrected. But once he's resurrected, he's going to be different.
- Jesus, then, wants his disciples to think about his life, death, and resurrection in the same way they would think about a seed turning into a plant.
- He wants them to know that his resurrected life will be like a plant that keeps growing and has new seeds.
- Which is what his disciples will become – seeds that are part of his new life. Seeds that will share God's love and healing just like Jesus did.
- And, if we choose to accept Jesus' invitation to follow him, then we, too, can be seeds that are part of Jesus' new and better life that we can then share with others.
- That's the good news for today. Let's pray...

### **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.**

**Thank you and Amen**

Image 1

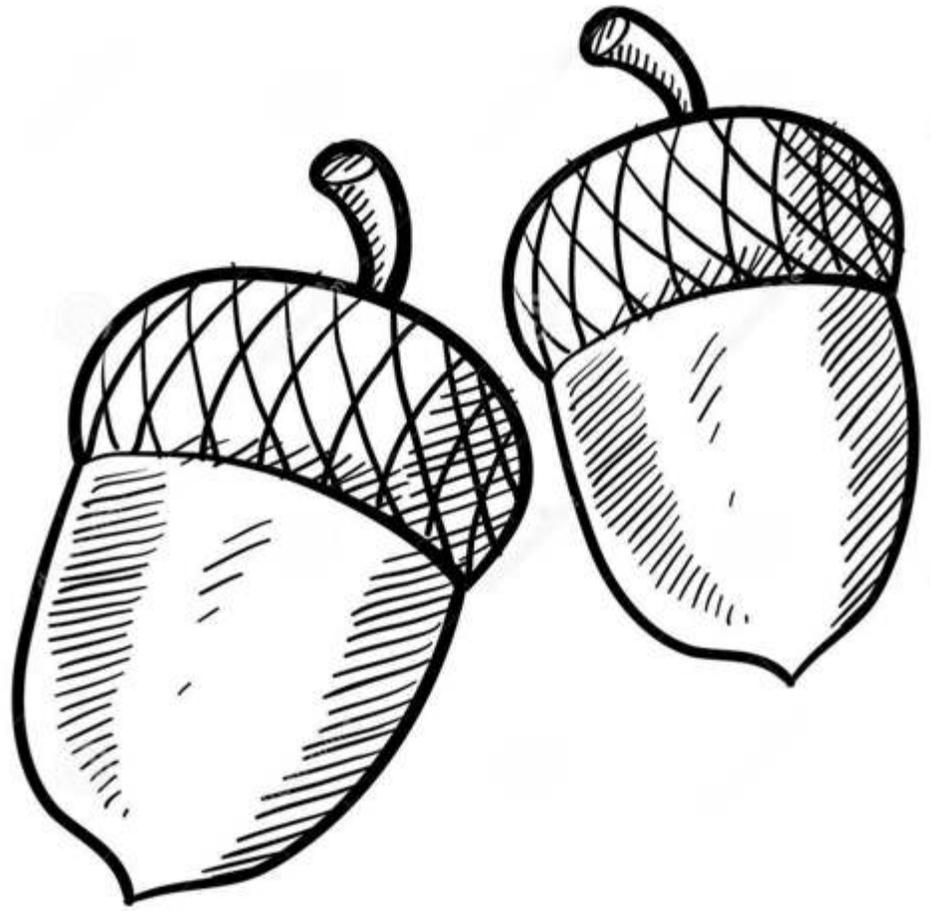
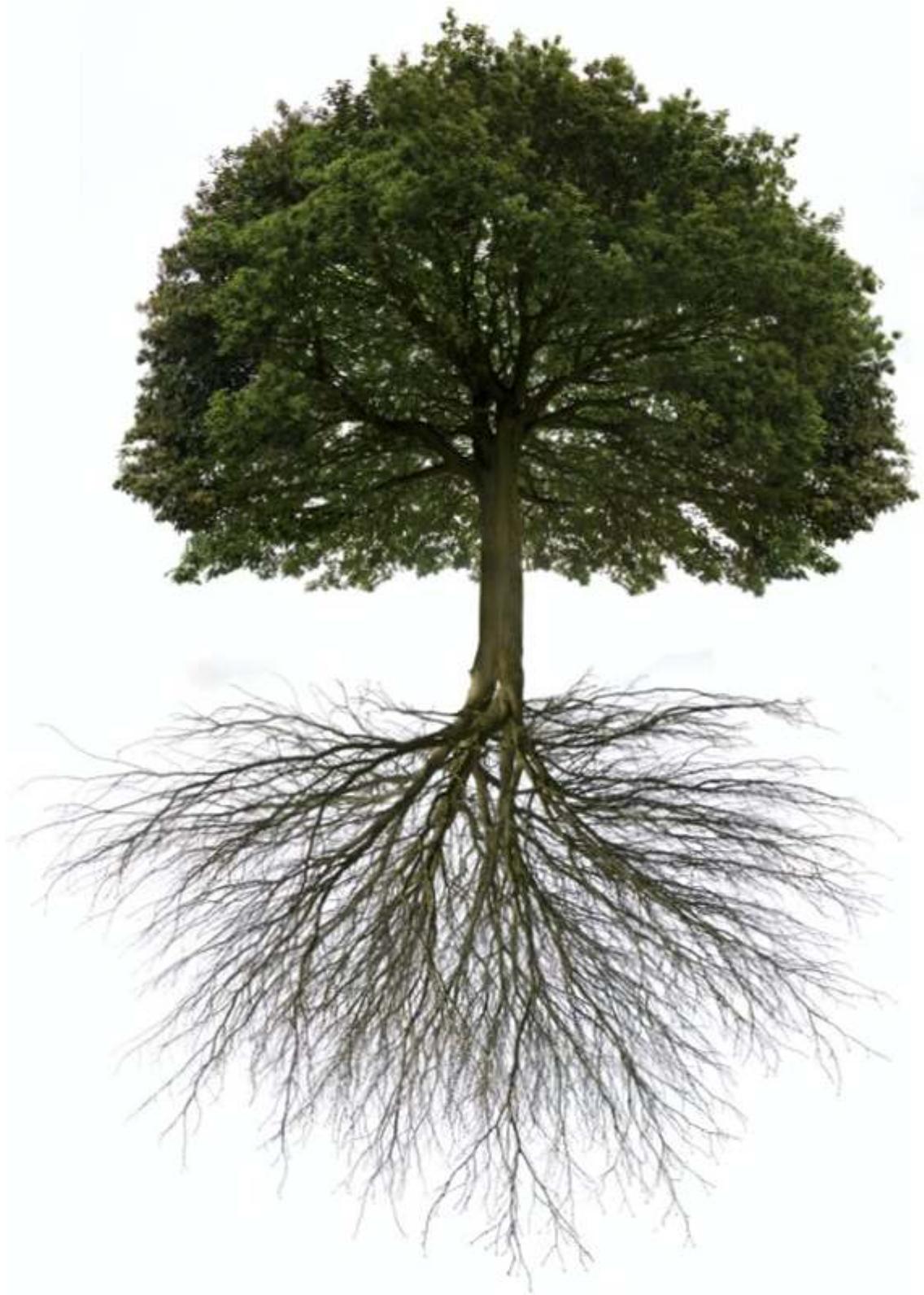


Image 2





*Image 3*