

The -dom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. It doesn't matter whether it falls on the path, on rocky ground, or among thorns. The seed that falls on good soil grows and produces a crop. The man who sows the seed is the Son of Man. The seed is the word of God. The path is the one who hears the word and does not understand it. The rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it with joy, but when trouble or persecution comes, he falls away. The thorns are the one who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke him, and he becomes unfruitful. The good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop of thirty, sixty, or a hundred times what was sown.

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The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

16 June, 2024

Mark 4:26-27

Jesus said: The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

Dear God, thank you for planting the seeds for me to grow. Help me plant the seed of faith so that others may know how much you love every one of us. **Amen**

God made all the earth, including the trees, the birds, the animals and all the people.



A small mustard seed can grow into a tree with branches for birds to nest upon.

Word Search Puzzle

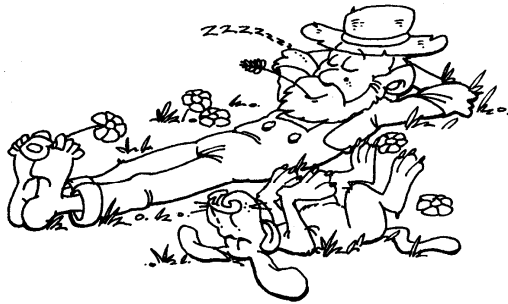
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words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

U P L U N D E R E D W B B W W S
 U T T E R E M A N C H L U H I P
 C A N N O T H A T O A A T O T I
 T R U L Y E O F E M T S B E H R
 T H E I R R L P R E E P L V O I
 I O N W T N Y R A F V H A E U T
 N U E I H A S O G O E E S R T I
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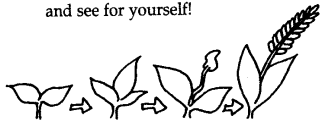
(Mark 3:24-29) If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. (25) And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. (26) And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. (27) But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. (28) "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; (29) but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"-- (NRSV)

Word List

FORGIVENESS BLASPHEMIES BLASPHEMES PLUNDERED WHATEVER
 PROPERTY WITHOUT WHOEVER KINGDOM HIMSELF ETERNAL DIVIDED
 AGAINST STRONG SPIRIT PEOPLE ITSELF INDEED GUILTY CANNOT
 UTTER TYING TRULY THEIR STAND SATAN RISEN NEVER HOUSE
 FIRST ENTER WILL THEY THEN THAT TELL SINS NRSV MARK
 HOLY HAVE COME ABLE YOU ONE MAN HIS HAS END BUT UP
 TO OF IF BE



- Excuse me, but shouldn't you be working? I mean . . . you're a farmer, aren't you?
- Uh? . . . Oh . . . working! Should I be working? What do you mean - I AM working!
- But here you are, sunbathing! How can that be work?
- Well, I assure you I'm working very hard! I'm growing oats, wheat and barley at the moment.
- Oh, yeah? Then they can't be growing very well if you're here snoozing, can they?
- Ah, well, that's just where you're wrong! I planted those seeds, right? And now they're growing - whether I'm watching them at it or not! You just come back in a month and see for yourself!



SO... HOW DOES THE KINGDOM GROW?

IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, AND TO SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH; TO TELL OF YOUR LOVING KINDNESS EARLY IN THE MORNING AND OF YOUR FAITHFULNESS IN THE NIGHT SEASON.
(- FROM PSALM 92 -)

GOD'S KINGDOM GROWS

IS JESUS SAYING WE DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP THE KINGDOM GROW?

No, but he's reminding us that the actual growing is God's business, and it happens.

SO IS OUR JOB TO GET THE GROUND READY AND KEEP IT FREE OF RUBBLE AND WEEDS?

Yes! We work with God on that, and planting the seed. Then God can bring those seeds to harvest.

I SUPPOSE IT'S A BIT POMPOUS TO THINK IT'S ALL DOWN TO OUR HARD WORK.

Yes - a bit like a driver thinking he makes a car go along.

SIGNS OF KINGDOM GROWTH ?

I think the signs to look for would be ...

1	2
3	4

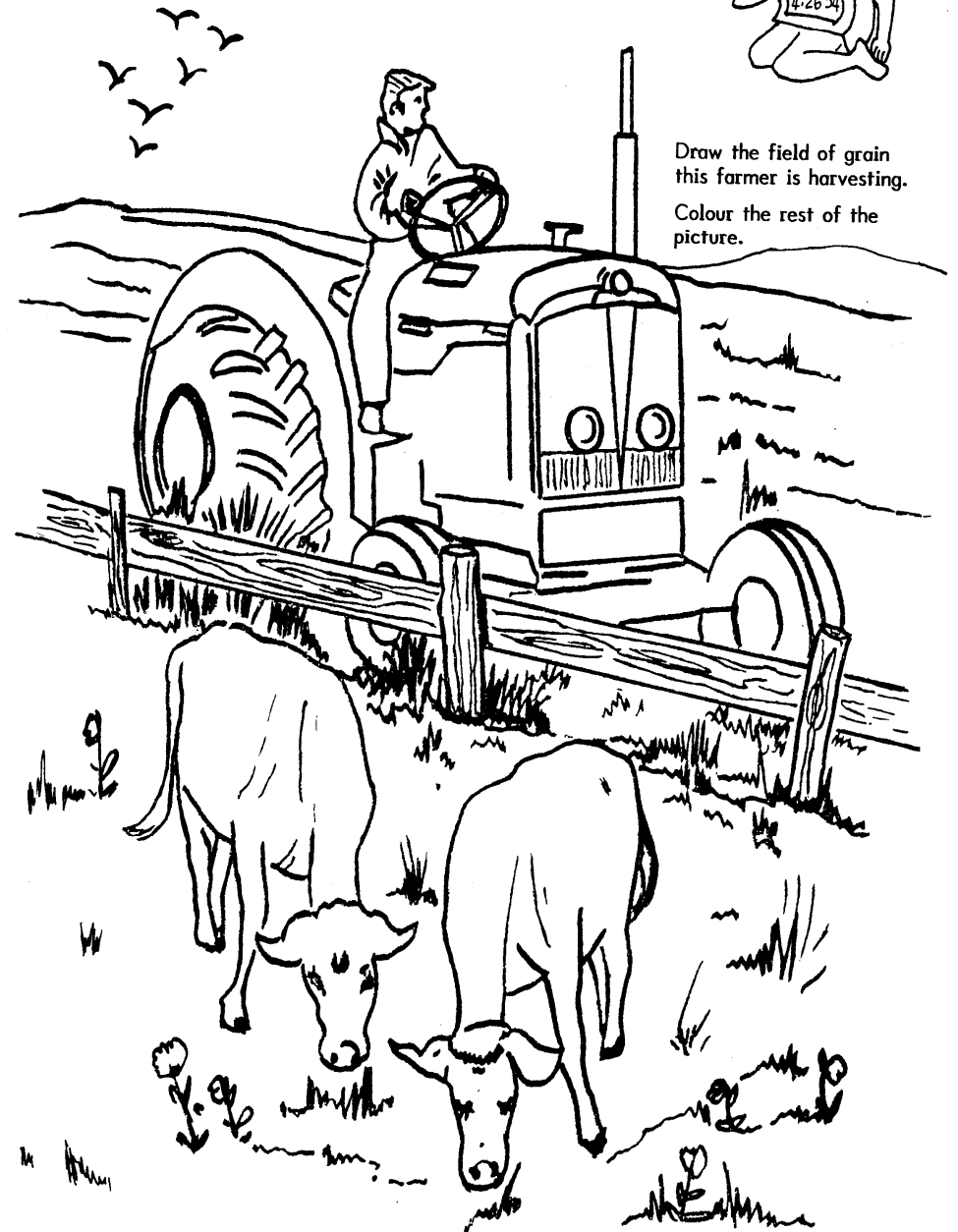
Can you see them?

Here	1	2	3	4
In yourself				
In your church community				
In our Society				

God, makes the plants grow, and then the farmer harvests the crop.



Draw the field of grain this farmer is harvesting. Colour the rest of the picture.



God wants love and joy
 peace and goodness
 hope and kindness to grow in us.



Find love
 joy
 peace
 goodness
 hope
 kindness
 in these plants.

Then colour the picture.

Crossword: Mark 4:26-34 (CEV)

Listen CAREFULLY to the Reading and fill in the blank spaces.
 Afterwards you will be able to complete the crossword puzzle below.

- 1 down) Again Jesus said, "God's _____ is
- 8 across) like what happens when a _____ scatters
- 6 down) seed in a _____. The farmer sleeps at _____
- 23 across) _____ and is up and around during the day.
- 22 across) Yet the _____ keep sprouting and growing,
- 12 down) _____ and he doesn't _____ how. It is the
- 2 down) _____ ground that makes the seeds _____ and grow
- 20 across) _____ into plants that produce _____. Then when _____
- 10 down) _____ season comes and the grain is ripe,
- 18 across) the farmer _____ it with a sickle.
- 14 across) Finally, _____ said, "What is God's kingdom
- 5 down) like? What _____ can I use to explain it?
- 11 down) It is like what happens when a _____ seed
- 21 across) is _____ in the ground. It is the smallest
- 7 across) seed in all the _____. But once it is planted,
- 17 down) it grows larger than any _____ plant.
- _____ It even puts out branches that are big enough for
- 19 down) birds to nest in its _____.
- 15 across) Jesus used many other _____ when he spoke
- 16 across) to the people, and he _____ them as much
- 9 across) as they could understand. He did not _____
- 13 across) them _____ without using stories. But
- 3 across) when he was alone with his _____, he
- 4 down) explained _____ to them.

