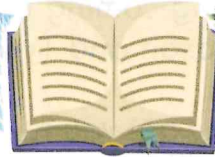


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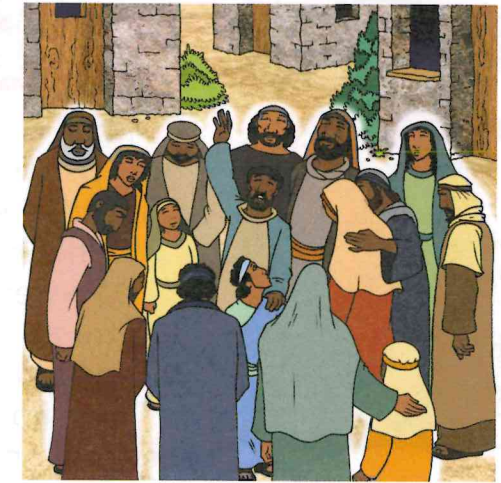
Together We Stand

Jesus shared two *parables* (meaningful stories) to help us understand that although God's kingdom started small, it has continued to grow and increase as Christians stand and work together.

Jesus compared God's kingdom to a man who scattered seed on the ground. The seed grew night and day while the man slept and when he was awake. The man did not know how the seed was growing. Without help, the plant grew, then the head, and then the grain. When the grain was ready, the man cut it. It was harvesting time.

Jesus also compared God's kingdom to a mustard seed. A mustard seed is smaller than any seed on the earth. But when it is planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all the plants in the garden. Its branches are so big that birds can make their nests and be protected from the sun.

Although there are many members in God's kingdom, Paul said, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."



Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 4:26-32; Ephesians 4:4-6

Key Verses

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:4-5)





Better Together!

Mom could hear arguing coming from upstairs. When she got upstairs, she found Cason and Tyson in the middle of the hall with their instruments.

"What is going on? Why are you fussing?" Mom asked.

"We were practicing, and Cason started talking about how the trumpet is better than the violin. Nobody cares!" Tyson responded.

"It is harder to play the trumpet, and my trumpet sounds better than any old violin," Cason replied.

"Stop! The violin and the trumpet have the same purpose," Mom replied.

"But, Mom, they are not the same," Tyson added.

"You are right. They are different, but they are better together," Mom replied.

"What? Better together?" Cason asked. "That sounds crazy."

"It's not crazy. Your instruments look, sound, and play differently. But when you play songs together, it makes beautiful and harmonious music. You are better together. Now play a song together," Mom replied.



Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab



Hello, all! Ruby here. I love to hear about people who are united and working together. We get more done when we work together and cooperate. Sometimes, it can be hard to work with one another, but it is important. Cason and Tyson learned that their instruments made beautiful music when they played together in harmony. Our lesson teaches us that one body has many members, and each member is important. We can accomplish a lot when we work together.

Think of ways that you have had to cooperate with others to complete an important task (job). Let's discuss it.



Match the Sentence Parts

To complete the sentences from today's lesson, match the first part of the sentence in Column A to the second part in Column B by drawing a line between the two.

Column A

1. There is one Lord,
2. There is one body and one Spirit,
3. As soon as the grain is ripe, he starts to cut it,
4. This is what
5. The mustard seed is smaller than any seed on the earth. But when you plant it,

Column B

- a. it grows and becomes the largest of all the plants in your garden.
- b. because harvest time has come.
- c. the kingdom of God is like.
- d. just as there is one hope to which God has called you.
- e. one faith, one baptism.





A "Standing Together" Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below and the Word Bank to fill words from today's lesson into the crossword puzzle and complete it.

Word Bank

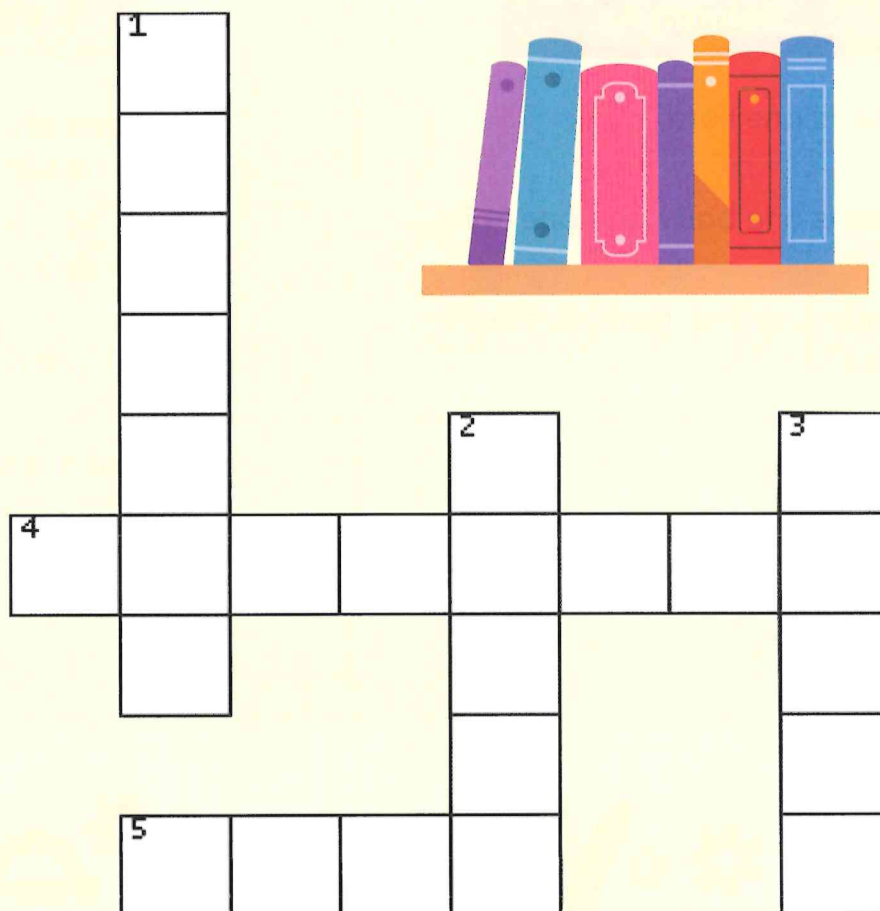
GROWS

KINGDOM

SEED

STAND

TOGETHER



DOWN

1. Where a king lives
2. The opposite of "sit"
3. Becomes larger or greater over time

ACROSS

4. The opposite of "separate"
5. Grows into a plant when planted in the ground

