



**Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way
March 21, 2021**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 (10)

Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Hellooo friends! How many of you have seen an acorn? They remind me of little brown fairies with cute hats. Maybe some of you have them in your yard at home or have seen them when you take walks with your family? Do you know what an acorn grows up to be? A big tall mighty oak tree! Oak trees live for hundreds of years and have deep, deep roots. So, here's a question for you today...does an acorn have to stop being an acorn so that it can live as an oak tree? Yep. It sure does.

In our gospel lesson from John, Jesus tells his friends, the disciples about a grain of wheat.

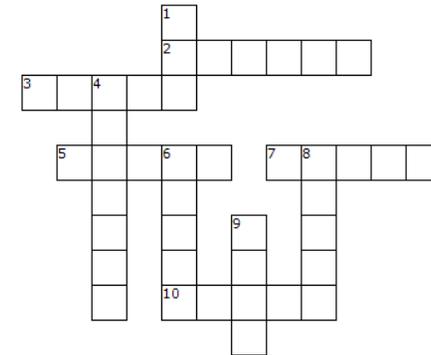
He tells them that that grain of wheat can't do what it is supposed to do, which is grow into a plant unless it stops being a grain of wheat. Jesus says that it's like the grain of wheat died.

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, like 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.

The reason Jesus is talking to the disciples about a grain of wheat dying so that it can become a plant is that 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, brought back to life to live with God. 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, and that the disciples will become the seeds that are part of his new life. These "seeds" will scatter and share God's love, just like Jesus did. And guess what? We are part of Jesus' new life too, just like the disciples.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. To be raised up
- 3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
- 5. What we humans use to speak or sing
- 7. The Son of God
- 10. The end of life

DOWN

- 1. Everyone and everything
- 4. To bring praise and honor to God
- 6. A large group of people
- 8. The land surface of the world
- 9. To attract someone or something

DEATH	ANGEL	VOICE	EARTH	JESUS
ALL	DRAW	GLORIFY	LIFTED	CROWD

Prayer: Loving God, help us to scatter your love like seeds so that the world may know the saving grace of Jesus. Amen.

Activity: As a family, take a walk on a wooded trail. How many acorns can you find? See if you can spot some mighty oak trees.

Discussion Question: Think of some other things that have to change to become what they are intended to be. What about the butterfly? How about you?

March Family Table Prayer: God, you bless us every day. You give us strength for work and play. Bless this meal and our family, too Lord, we love and worship You.

Memory Verse: John 3:16 -God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have life forever.

Jesus Loves You



