

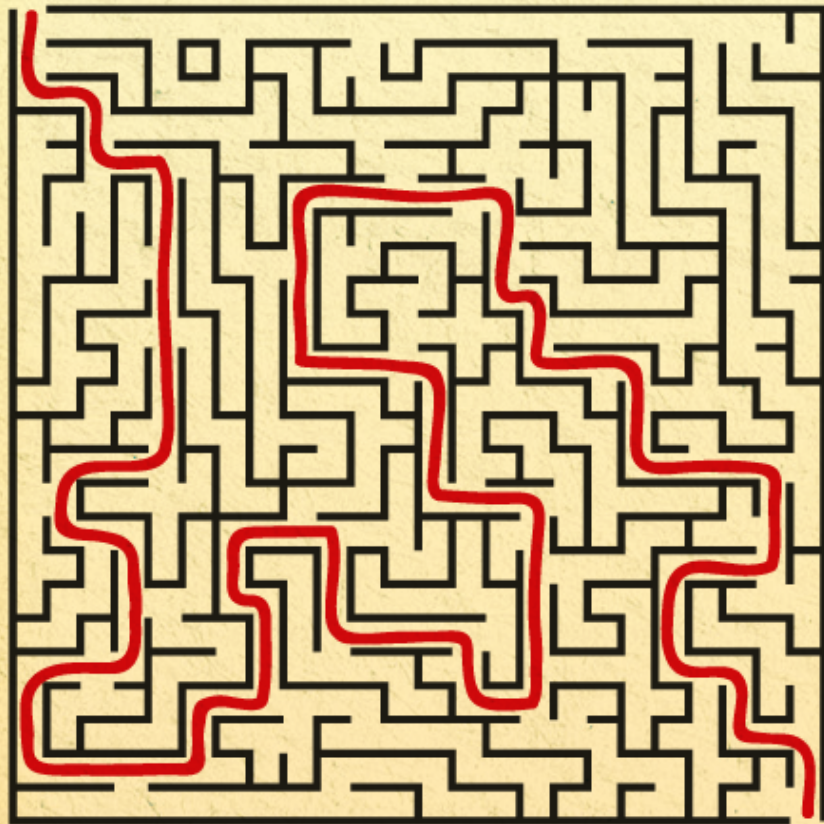
TEACHER NOTES



CHILDREN'S TEACHER GUIDE – LESSON 2



Help the scientist find the
special nutrient!



Excellent work!



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio



The Church is Strengthened

Growing: The Church is Strengthened

Key Verse — Acts 12:24

Suggested Activity:

Discuss the progress of the plants. Ask about the differences between your plants and the children's plants.

Do you see anything different in the seeds you planted from last week?

What has happened to them?

Isn't it neat how a little seed can turn into a tall plant?

What is happening to the pot without water?

Why do you think your plants are growing and mine are not?

Introduction:

Remember, in our last lesson how excited all of the assistants were at the discovery of the Super Nutrient that would grow trees that would produce an unending food supply? The scientist who developed the Super Nutrient Formula gave them everything they needed to feed their own families. However, part of the deal was that he intended his 120 assistants to become farmers not just at home, but around the world as well! Let's take a look at how these assistants turned farmers are getting along now.

Story: "Hoarding the Trees"

"This is delicious, Papa!" said the boy. "My tummy is getting sooo full. Should I save some to eat tomorrow?"

"No, Son. You may eat all you'd like," said the farmer. "The Super Trees are producing more and more every day now."

Just then, the farmer's daughters passed by dragging a huge basket filled with food picked from the branches of their Super Tree in the village.

"Thank you for planting our tree, Papa," said one of the girls.

"Oh, Daddy!" said her sister. "Look at all the different fruits and vegetables that have come from our tree!"

The farmer's wife walked up behind him and gave him a big hug. "I'm so grateful that the scientist chose you as one of his assistants. You've saved our family from starvation. You're my hero!"

"You all are too kind," said the farmer. "I never would have dreamed of being a farmer. All I've done is just do as I was told. Three months ago, the scientist showed my co-workers and me what to do and then we did it. Now we have more food than we know what to do with!"

At the farmer's last word, he froze as a familiar voice from across the yard startled him. "But you haven't done what I asked you to do! You've only done part!"

"B-b-b-but, Sir," stammered the farmer. "Your Super Trees are doing so well here in the village. And the Super Nutrient Formula has proven to be the greatest discovery the world has ever known!"

The scientist had been standing there next to the tree the whole time. "That's the problem. It's been several months now and the world knows nothing about what has happened here. Your families enjoy the benefits of my work, but you've kept it all to yourselves."

"But, Sir. The people outside of our village look nothing like us. We don't even speak the same language and they have different customs. They're so far away from our home! Surely you can't expect us to leave this place. Everything is going so well now."

"My instructions were clear. Feed your village and feed the world. You were supposed to do both." The scientist turned and walked toward a nearby shed. Soon, he returned carrying a bundle of tall stakes and some rope. One by one, he began to drive stakes into the soil around each tree in the middle of the village. He then roped off the trees, making it obvious that access was now limited.

The gathering crowd was horrified! Several angry voices from other farmers and their wives rang out above the crowd, "You can't do that!" "We worked hard planting those trees!" "That's our food!"

"You're wrong!" called the scientist above the noise. "Surely you all remember that the land is mine. The process for growing the trees is mine. Even the Super Nutrient is mine. When you all signed on for this experiment, you agreed to help me feed your families AND the uttermost parts of the earth. Some of you may stay, but some of you have got to leave here so that others around the world can eat and live as you have. So? Who of you will go?"

The crowd was silent as one of the farmers put his arm around his wife and gathered his son and two daughters near to his side. "We will go."

Conclusion:

The workers had promised the scientist that they would not only feed their own people, but also go and cultivate trees far and wide so that more people could eat and live. However, they became selfish and only sowed and grew trees for their local families and friends. Because no one was volunteering to fulfill their agreement, the scientist limited access to the Super Trees so that someone would have to move elsewhere and fulfill the original mission. This might seem harsh, but it's very similar to how God allowed the church at Jerusalem to be persecuted by the local government and others so they would be forced to leave their own people and carry God's message to the rest of the world. Jesus had told his followers to preach the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judaea, and the uttermost part of the Earth. Jesus' followers in the early church were forced out of their comfort zone and compelled to become messengers carrying the message to faraway lands.

Have you ever met someone who may be a little different than you? Do they look differently or talk differently than you? How does it make you feel to be around them? Does it make you feel a little uncomfortable? This is exactly how the farmers felt in our story about those who were not like them. Likewise, the Jews in the Bible also had a hard time going to those who were not exactly like them to tell them about the Gospel. Do you remember the stories about the Good Samaritan and the woman at the well? However, Jesus told us that we were to tell everyone about the Gospel no matter their looks or speech. What are some things you can do to reach all the world with the Gospel?