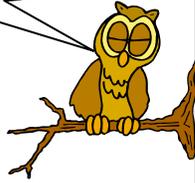


Do YOU ever get bored during the school holidays?



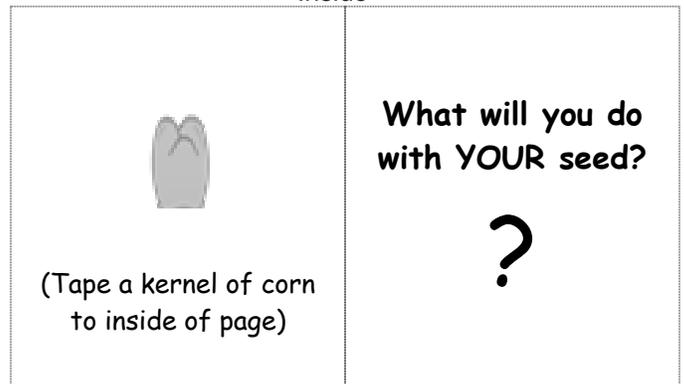
Around the world the school year is planned very differently in many countries and the school holidays are at different times of the year. Here in the United States, most children have two or even THREE months of summer vacation from school about now! It started that way hundreds of years ago because children were needed to help work bringing in the harvest on the farms - but not many children today would like to spend all their time working in the fields!! Some families are able to go away for a while on holiday; some children visit relatives or go to summer camps; in many churches special events like Vacation Bible Schools are held to help entertain children and also teach them about the Bible. But MANY children soon become bored if they have nothing special to do! WE think it is a great time for Christian children to do special projects to tell others about Jesus - it's a good way to obey Jesus' commandment in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)! But how can you actually do that?

One fun way is to prepare a little play or skit, and then present it to your friends and neighbors in the backyard. You could use puppets or real people, and a few simple props (objects or costumes that make it easier to understand) and practice it a few times first to learn the words. Many of the parables that Jesus told in the Bible make very simple plays with a good bible message and are fun to do. (Do you know any of Jesus' parables?) Of course in each country the customs and food are different, so you might have to change a few words to make more sense where YOU live. Here's a simple play I wrote that you might like to try, that can be done in ANY country. It's called "Just ONE Seed!" You can even prepare a little card to give to each person, with a seed in it like the picture below, and then present the play.

Outside



Inside



**Scene 1** [Two boys enter chatting]

**Boy** "Look what the teacher gave me in class today!" [Shows little card to friend and opens it]  
**Friend** "What is it? A tooth?"  
**Boy** "No, it's a kernel of corn, a seed."  
**Friend** "What can you do with that? Eat it? Ha ha!"  
**Boy** "No, if Mama used it to make cornmeal, it would be such a little bit, it would only make a REALLY TINY tortilla (or corn muffin)!! [They laugh together]  
**Friend** "It's useless - might as well throw it away!"  
**Boy** "Yes, it's not much of a gift!!" [Throws seed into corner as they walk off]

**Scene 2** [A few weeks later the two boys re-enter and notice a corn plant in the corner]

**Friend** "Hey, what's that over there in the corner?"  
**Boy** "Looks like some kind of big plant!"

Friend "Do you think it's from that seed you threw away?"

Boy "I don't know, let's have a look." [They go over and examine the plant]

Friend "Hey, look, there are one... two....THREE ears of corn growing on it!"

Boy "Yeah, if they were ripe we could cook them and eat them - that'd be a good meal for us!"

Friend "Your Mama could make us a big tortilla (or muffin) each!" [They run out laughing]

**Scene 3** [About a year later the two boys come in again]

Boy "I can't believe it's been a whole year since we were last here!"

Friend "Yeah, I think I've grown 6 inches this past year, I could hardly get through that hole in the fence!"

Boy "Wow!! Look over there in the corner, there's a whole bunch of those big corn plants" [They run and look]

Friend "Do you think they all came from that same one we saw last year?"

Boy "I guess so - look there's [counting] .....well, DOZENS of ears of corn now! Enough for Mama to make tortillas (or muffins) for the whole family and yours too!"

Friend "Yeah, and all from that ONE little seed! I guess it wasn't so useless after all! Come on let's pick these ears of corn and take them home!"

Boy "Turned out to be quite a good little gift from my teacher after all!" [They leave running]



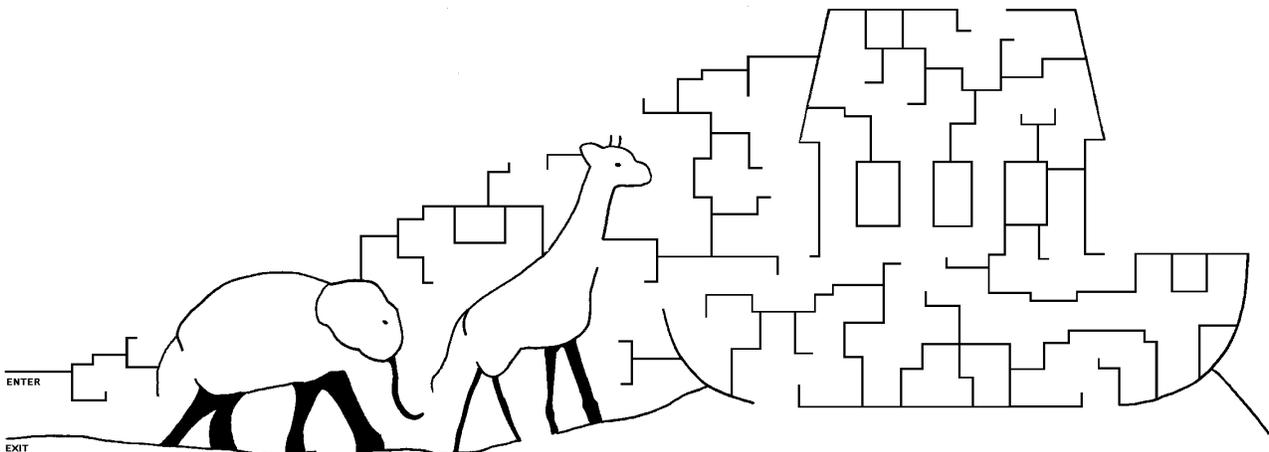
What God can do with just ONE small seed! God already has His plan in motion to help the seed grow and multiply, even if we can't understand it! Something that seems too small and useless to us can be used by God to do great things! But if we can understand what God's plan is and work WITH God, even MORE can be accomplished!

God has given us such a gift in Jesus and the Bible - we can either:

1. ignore it - and God's plan will go on without us, or
2. use it just for ourselves - and feel blessed and happy, or
3. work WITH God to share the gift with others so that many can be blessed!

What are YOU going to do?

Amazing maze - In many parts of the United States farmers work VERY hard planting corn in a special design in order to give a lot of people fun during the harvest season. They plant CORN MAZES like the one below, and then when the corn has grown very tall and is ready to harvest, they let visitors walk around and try to find their way through the maze! Remember, the walls of the maze are made of corn plants very close together and so it's very hard to see where you are and how to get out!! The mazes are grown in many different patterns - can you recognize what this one is?



Have a great summer - and let us know what YOU do this summer to tell others about Jesus!

'Til next time,

love from your friend, Shirley

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