

Children's sermon



Theme: Planting Seeds for Future Generations

Supplies: apple seeds, apple cut in half horizontally so you can see the seeds, picture of an apple tree

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 NIV

Script

[Show the children the apple seeds]

Does anyone know what these are?

[Allow time for guesses]

They are apple seeds! They are inside every apple that we eat. I cut open an apple to show you what it looks like inside. See? There are the seeds.

[Show the children an apple cut horizontally showing the seeds inside]

Inside every apple are seeds. And if we plant the seeds, they grow an apple tree like this.

[Show the picture of apple tree]

And apples trees grow big and tall and make more apples. And if you plant the seeds from those apples, what do you get? [Wait for answers] You get more apple trees! Have you ever heard the story of Johnny Appleseed? Johnny Appleseed was a man who used to travel across the country planting apple trees. He planted many orchards and brought trees to Pennsylvania, Ontario, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and West Virginia. Johnny Appleseed was also a preacher and a teacher who taught people about Jesus. He loved trees and animals and people. He lived a simple life, and as he traveled, he blessed those left behind with apple trees and the love of God.

As we travel through life—to school, to the store, to the park, to a friend's house—I wonder how we can bless other people by planting seeds of generosity, of kindness, of God's love.

How can we help grow a better world for us all?

[Allow time for possible answers to this question]

Today we are collecting a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. The money that we give goes to plant seeds of hope around the world to help young people grow well and have good futures. Our gifts allow girls who are not much older than you the opportunity to go to school when they might not get to learn otherwise. They learn all kinds of skills that help them have more choices and more opportunities for the rest of their lives! There is a song that we can imagine Johnny Appleseed used to sing. You might know it. If not, I'll teach it to you.

Johnny Appleseed song

Oh, the Lord's been good to me
and so I thank the Lord
for giving me the things I need:
the sun and the rain and the apple seed.
The Lord's been good to me.

Prayer

God, thank you for the many blessings that you have given us.
Help us to give and receive blessings from each other,
each person planting seeds of goodness.
Bless our offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.
May it help others to also plant seeds and grow.
Amen.

*Written by Jeanne Davies, pastor of Parables Community (Ill.)
for One Great Hour of Sharing of the Church of the Brethren, 2020.*