

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



CHRISTIAN REFORMED

WORLD
MISSIONS

The Amazing Beans and God's Global Church

Revelation 7:9

Objective: To be amazed by the growth and spread of the church throughout the world.

Needed:

1. Clear jar of bean seeds
2. Cloth to cover jar or tote bag to put it in
3. Globe (or world map)
4. Packets of bean seeds – Across the back, put a strip of masking tape and with a marker write the words, 'God's Global Church' and Revelation 7:9. Or print the words out on small mailing labels.

A. The Amazing Beans

[Hold covered jar of seeds or tote out so the kids can see it. Be secretive.]

I have something really amazing in here that I want to show you. Do you want to see it?

[Remove cloth or take it out of the tote.]

Here it is. What are these? Yes, they're beans. These are amazing bean seeds! What will happen if I plant these seeds outside in some nice warm dirt and make sure they have enough water? What will they do? They'll grow into big bushes, won't they? Those bushes will grow little flowers. And those flowers will grow into green beans. So, from these tiny little bean seeds, you can grow lots of green beans – enough to feed everyone in the church today. Isn't that amazing!?

B. The Amazing Church

Did you know that that's how the church grew too? Not this church building. Somebody didn't plant a church seed and it grew into this nice big building. Carpenters and masons built it didn't they? By church, I mean all the people that follow Jesus or call themselves Christians.

Twelve Disciples

The church started out kind of like one of these seeds – really tiny. You remember how many disciples Jesus started out with? Twelve disciples. These disciples, or followers of Jesus, told other people about Jesus until there were hundreds of people who followed Jesus. And these people told other people about Jesus until there were thousands of people who followed Jesus. Then these people told other people about Jesus until there millions of people who followed Jesus. Then these people told other people about Jesus until today how many people do you think are Christians? *[Hold up globe.]* Here's the world. In the whole world there are more than 6 billion people. That's a lot of people. That's a six with 9 zeroes – that's zero, zero, zero - zero, zero, zero - zero, zero, zero. Out of all those people about 2 billion are Christians. That's a 2 with 9 zeroes - zero, zero, zero - zero, zero, zero - zero, zero, zero. That's one third of the whole world!

A long time ago Jesus started out with only 12 disciples. And today there are more than 2 billion Christians living all over the world. That's amazing isn't it!?

C. God's Global Church

Did you know that today these 2 billion Christians live in every continent all over the world except Antarctica? It's too cold to live in Antarctica isn't it? Only seals and penguins and animals like that live there.

[Hold up a globe or world map for the kids to see. Point to each of the continents as you say them.]

Millions of Christians live in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America – all over the world.

Do you know what we call all these Christians living all over the world or the globe?

[Indicate the whole globe with your hand.] We call them God's global church. Will you say that with me? *[Repeat]* These are the 2 billion people who follow Jesus all over the globe. There are 2 billion people in God's Global Church!

Just like these few, small bean seeds can grow into big bushy plants and make enough beans so that everyone in the church can eat some, God's church grew from just 12 disciples to more than 2 billion Christians living all over the world. Those 12 disciples grew into God's global church. That's amazing isn't it!?

There's a verse in the Bible that talks about God's Global Church. It's Revelation 7:9. Let me read that to you.

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the lamb...."

D. Prayer

Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you that you are an amazing God. You created everything and you watch over us every day.

And we thank you for sending Jesus so that he can grow your church.

We pray that those who don't know Jesus will have a chance to hear the gospel and will accept him as Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

E. Distribute Seeds

Before you go, I have something I want to give you. Here's a packet of seeds. On the back it says God's Global Church. And it says Revelation 7:9. You can grow these outside in the garden or in a flower pot in your house. When you plant them and watch them grow, I hope you'll remember how the church has grown all around the world into God's global church and that you'll thank God for these amazing seeds and for his amazing church all over the world.