

SEEDS OF JOY

by John W. Walker



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

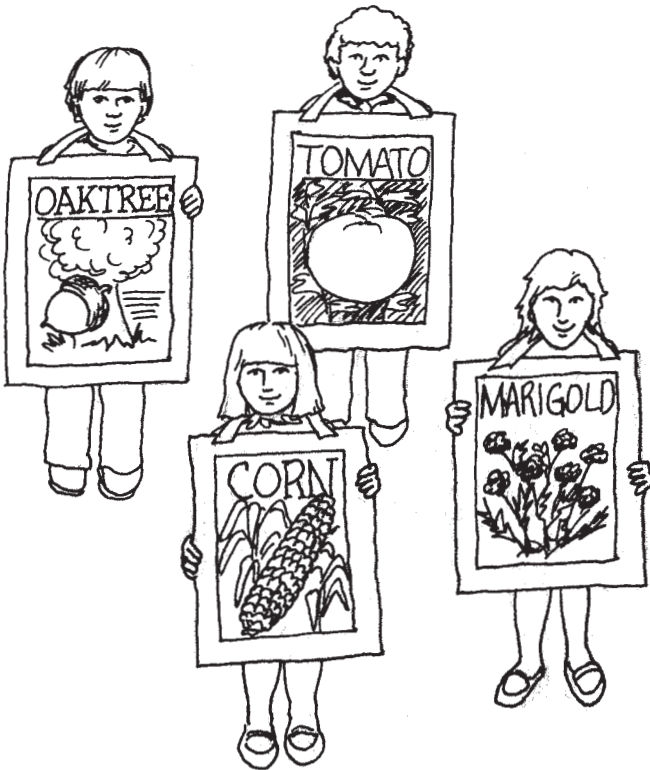
One adult who may be and/or portray minister, teacher or parent. The adult should be able to sing a solo.

One child or a number of children to speak the "child" parts.

Four children to be seeds of the oak tree, tomato, corn and marigold. These children should be costumed to resemble a seed packet.

One to four children to speak the lines in the four verses of the song, "God Isn't Finished."

These children represent the seeds of a tomato, corn and marigold at the appropriate times.



PRODUCTION NOTES

Seeds of Joy is designed to be produced with as few persons as one adult and five children, or one adult and as many children as are available. The "child" parts in the script should be divided among as many children as desired.

Seeds of Joy needs no scenery. It may be used within a worship service in the chancel area or it may be produced Onstage. When staged, a farm scene or garden backdrop, showing crops in the field, may be desirable.

The introduction may be spoken by one or more persons, or it may be deleted from the presentation and used in printed form, either on a bulletin or a program for the production.

It may be desirable to teach the children the chorus of "Low in the Grave He Lay" which is contained in the following hymnals:

The Methodist Hymnal, No. 444 (United Methodist)

Hymns for the Family of God, No. 298 (Interdenominational)

Baptist Hymnal, No. 113 (Baptist)

Hymns of Praises, No. 200 (Presbyterian)

They can be seated while the congregation sings the verses. On the chorus the children can join in as they stand on the words, "Up from the grave he arose."

The song, "You Don't Have To Be Afraid" is visualized with children costumed as "seed packets" (oak tree, tomato, corn and marigold). These may be made of white wrapping paper and colorfully painted as per our illustration. These paper "seed packets" will have an opening for the child's head. On cue they can be simply removed by slipping them off over the head like a sweater being taken off. The child then represents the seed he/she delivers his/her lines.

Production Notes (cont'd)

This song “You Don’t Have To Be Afraid” is designed to be sung as a round. This, of course, is optional. When sung as a round, the second group should begin at the end of the second line in the first verse after the word, “hide.”

It is also possible for the adult to speak the verses the first time through and then join in singing the song with the children the second time.

INTRODUCTION

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ADULT: Christians are the Resurrection People. This has been our life-changing claim since that first Easter morning when the followers of Jesus discovered the empty tomb. Only the sure and certain knowledge of the Resurrection could turn trembling, hiding disciples who deserted our Lord into eloquent martyrs for the Christian faith. The Resurrection is not only the center of our faith, but also our hope and promise as we confront our own mortality every day. God's perfect love demonstrated in the life and Resurrection of Jesus Christ casts out our fear of death and enables us to rejoice in the life abundant.

Nevertheless, many Christians today surrender their strength to the fears of the world trembling in the darkness rather than proclaiming the light. All of creation cries out in testimony to Resurrection, yet many of us continue to live in fear, rather than anticipation, of death. If we would spare the children of the next generation needless fear in their lives, we must proclaim by word and example the Good News of the Christian Gospel; that death is not the end for those who die in Christ, but just the beginning of an even greater eternal life.

Nowhere is this Resurrection so widely demonstrated in nature as in the miracle of transformation from seed to plant or tree. It is this example which Paul uses in I Corinthians 15:35 and Jesus uses in John 12:24. When we, in the light of Christian faith, consider our marvelous bodies to be only seeds of an even

1 greater life to come, then, we and this message
 2 we can share with others truly become "Seeds
 3 of Joy."
 4

5 ACT I
 6

7 *(The PASTOR or an ADULT gathers the children*
 8 *around him or her. If only one child is used,*
 9 *that child may sit on the adult's lap.)*

10 ADULT: Good morning *(afternoon or evening)* children!
 11 What holiday are we going to celebrate next?

12 CHILDREN: Easter!

13 ADULT: And who can tell me why we celebrate Easter?

14 CHILDREN: *(All waving hands.)* Oh, I can!

15 ADULT: *(Picking one CHILD.)* OK, *(name)* why do we
 16 celebrate Easter?

17 CHILD: It's when Jesus died on the Cross.

18 ADULT: Very good! That's the first part of the answer.
 19 Now, who can tell me the other part?

20 CHILDREN: *(Together.)* Oh! Me! Me!

21 ADULT: *(Again, selecting one.)* OK, *(name)*.

22 CHILD: On Easter Jesus rose from the dead.

23 ADULT: Very good! *(Child quietly has hand up in the*
 24 *air.)* Yes, *(name)*.

25 CHILD: What's it like to die?

26 ADULT: *(Quietly, seriously.)* That's a very good
 27 question. No one really knows for sure.

28 However, Jesus showed us at Easter that death
 29 isn't the end, but the beginning of a very
 30 special life with God.

31 CHILD: I don't want to die, I'm afraid.

32 ADULT: Hardly anyone wants to die. But Jesus showed
 33 us how much God loves us, and that we don't
 34 have to be afraid. He even told us that no
 35 matter what happens, he's with us forever

1 and ever. (*ADULT and CHILDREN sing:*
 2 “*You Don’t Have To Be Afraid.*”)
 3 (*The ADULT sings through the song once. Then*
 4 *the ADULT begins again and the CHILDREN*
 5 *join in as a round. The CHILDREN sing the*
 6 *round, using the pronouns indicated in the*
 7 *parenthesis.*)

8

9 **Song: “You Don’t Have To Be Afraid”**
 10 (*See music sheets.*)

11 (*Verse 1*)

12 You (we) don’t have to be afraid

13 You (we) don’t have to hide

13 When you’re (we’re) feeling all alone

14 God is by your (our) side.

15 (*Verse 2*)

16 You (we) don’t have to be afraid

17 Jesus is your (our) friend

18 He is with you (us) all the time

19 His love never ends.

20 (*Verse 3*)

21 You (we) hear people talk of death

22 People talk of fear

23 You (we) don’t have to worry now

24 Jesus Christ is here.

25 You (we) don’t have to worry now

26 Jesus Christ is here.

27

28 **ADULT:** So you see, no matter what happens, Jesus
 29 is with us, and we don’t have to be afraid.

30 **CHILD:** But what about Resurrection?

31 **ADULT:** That’s another good question. Jesus compared
 32 dying and Resurrection to planting a seed. Did
 33 you ever plant a seed?

34 **CHILDREN:** (*Together*) I did!

35 **ADULT:** And what happened?

- 1 **CHILD:** The seed grew into a flower.
- 2 **ADULT:** Right! Resurrection is when God takes us
 3 either in this life or after we die and turns us
 4 into something even more beautiful and
 5 special than we are now. Just think of yourself
 6 as a seed! (*The four CHILDREN lead seed-*
 7 *covered, TREE, CORN, TOMATO and*
 8 *MARIGOLD onto the stage.*)
 9 (*The ADULT sings the first chorus of "God Isn't*
 10 *Finished."* Each CHILD speaks his/her verse
 11 ending by pulling off the appropriate seed cover.
 12 The CHILD is revealed as the "seed." No seed
 13 costume necessary. At the end of the last verse
 14 CHILD 4 points to audience. After the first
 15 verse all CHILDREN join in chorus.)
 16 **Song: "God Isn't Finished"** (*See music sheets.*)
 17 (*Chorus, ADULT sings:*)
 18 God isn't finished; God isn't through
 19 You won't believe what God can do
 20 God takes a person like me and like you
 21 God makes us better — all shiny and new.
- 22 **CHILD 1:** (*Verse 1, spoken in rhythm.*)
 23 Consider the acorn, it's small as can be,
 24 But when God is finished we have an oak tree.
 25 (*ADULT and CHILDREN sing chorus.*)
- 26 **CHILD 2:** (*Verse 2 spoken in rhythm.*)
 27 Consider these seeds, they're plain and forlorn,
 28 But God turns them into tomatoes and corn.
 29 (*ADULT and CHILDREN sing chorus.*)
- 30 **CHILD 3:** (*Verse 3, spoken in rhythm.*)
 31 Now look at this seed; it looks really old,
 32 But God turns it into a marigold.
 33 (*ADULT and CHILDREN sing chorus.*)
- 34 **CHILD 4:** (*Verse 4, spoken in rhythm.*)
 35 If God turns old seeds into something brand new

1 just think how much he can do for you.
 2 (*ADULT and CHILDREN sing chorus.*)

3 **ADULT:** On Easter God turned Jesus' death into life.
 4 That's what we call Resurrection.

5 **CHILD:** How do we know God will do that to us?

6 **ADULT:** Because, that's God's promise. God promises
 7 that when we believe in Him and accept Jesus
 8 as our Savior, we, too, will be made new, or
 9 resurrected after we die. That's why we never
 10 have to be afraid.

11 **CHILD:** I still don't want to die.

12 **ADULT:** Neither do I. Jesus wants us to have the very
 13 happiest life possible as long as we live. But
 14 isn't it exciting to know that when we do die,
 15 we can look forward to an even more
 16 wonderful life in heaven with God? There's a
 17 wonderful Easter song that talks about how
 18 Jesus arose from the grave and showed us death
 19 isn't the end. Let's all sing it together.

20 **Congregational Song: "Low In The Grave He Lay"**
 21 (*This Easter hymn can be found in the following*
 22 *hymnals:)*

23 *The Methodist Hymnal, No. 444 (United Methodist)*
 24 *Hymns for the Family of God, No. 298*
 25 *(Interdenominational)*
 26 *Baptist Hymnal, No. 113 (Baptist)*
 27 *Hymns of Praises, No. 200 (Presbyterian)*

28 Isn't it exciting to know that just like Jesus
 29 arose, so will we? When we die it's just like
 30 planting a seed. Resurrection is growing into
 31 a whole new life with God.

32 **CHILD:** I like to plant seeds.

33 **ADULT:** Isn't that fun! Do you know we don't have to
 34 wait to die to grow into something new? All of
 35 us are growing all the time. We're all like God's



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CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 844-841-6387 - Fax 319-368-8011
customerservice@christianpub.com