Date: 7/16/16

Title: Harvest Time

Theme: We must get planted and grow in order to be fit for God’s kingdom.

Object: Package of zucchini seeds and full grown zucchini squashes.

Text: Mark 4:26-29 26 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

This was one of many stories that Jesus told to tell people what His kingdom was like.

Have you ever planted seeds in a garden?

Last May I planted different kinds of seeds in my garden.

One of the seeds I planted was zucchini seeds. They came in this package. There were 24 seeds in the package. I planted them all, and I think they all grew into zucchini plants.

Now I have about 20 giant zucchini plants, and just last night I picked this bag of zucchini squashes.

I brought them to church because I think there may be some people here who would like to take home a zucchini squash and eat it.

If I gave you a zucchini seed to eat, I’m sure none of you would like it.

But if I gave you one of these beautiful zucchinis to eat, your mom could make zucchini bread, or ratatouille, or zucchini glop, or some other wonderful zucchini dish.

What a change: from a hard tasteless seed to a wonderful edible squash!

It is really amazing, when you think about it, how God created all the information in this little seed to grow a zucchini plant that produces zucchini squashes.

And that’s what Jesus said in the story we read from the Bible. The guy that plants the seeds has no idea of what goes on to make that seed grow and produce food that’s good to eat.

But Jesus said, that’s what His kingdom is like: it’s like planting a seed and getting a whole harvest of zucchinis.

Jesus came to earth and died on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven and become citizens of the kingdom of God. That’s the gospel!

And when we hear the gospel and make Jesus our Savior and Lord, we are like seeds that begin to grow in the kingdom of God.

And down through the ages from Jesus’ time to ours, the kingdom of God has been growing and growing.

Those who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord and ask Him to forgive their sins are growing from seeds to beautiful zucchinis in the garden of God.

And someday, when God has enough zucchinis in His garden, Jesus is coming back to get us so we can live in His kingdom.

Now you probably think I’ve been watching too much Vegie-Tales, because we’re really not going to be zucchinis, we’re going to be real people.

But the important thing to remember is that we have to get planted and keep growing to be a part of God’s kingdom.

We have to accept Jesus and get planted, and then grow more like Him every day.

Would you like to be part of God’s kingdom and live forever with Jesus when He comes again?

Let’s ask Him to change us from seeds to zucchinis so we can be part of the harvest.