

The Parable Of Bamboo

Key Word: Hollow

Key Verse: Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed. *John 20:8*

In the heart of a kingdom lay a beautiful garden. The most beautiful and beloved to the master of the garden was the splendid and noble Bamboo. Every year, Bamboo grew more beautiful and gracious. He was conscious of his master's love, yet he was modest and gentle. When Wind would dance in the garden, Bamboo would dance and sway, tossing and leaping. He delighted his master's heart.

One day the master spoke: "Bamboo, I would use you." Bamboo flung his head to the sky in delight. He would now find his destiny: "Master, I am ready, use me as you want."

"Bamboo," the master's voice was sad, "I would be obliged to take you and cut you down." Horror shook Bamboo, "Cut ... me ... down? Me whom you have made the most beautiful in all your garden? Use me for your joy, Master, but don't cut me down." "Beloved Bamboo," the master said, "If I do not cut you, I cannot use you."

Bamboo slowly bent his proud, glorious head. "Master, if you cannot use me unless you cut me down, then do your will," he whispered. The master said, "Bamboo, beloved Bamboo, I would cut your leaves and branches also. If I do not cut them away, I cannot use you." Bamboo shivered.

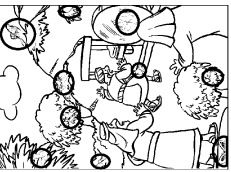
"Master, cut away." "Bamboo, I would divide you in two and hollow you out, for if I do not, I cannot use you," said the master. "Master, then cut and divide," whispered Bamboo.

So the master of the garden took Bamboo and cut him down. He hacked off his branches, stripped his leaves, and divided him in two. He hollowed him out, and lifting him gently, carried him to where there was a spring of fresh water in the midst of the master's dry fields. Putting one end of broken Bamboo into the spring and the other end into the water channel in the field, the master gently laid down his beloved Bamboo. The sparkling water raced joyously down the channel of Bamboo's body into the waiting fields. The rice was planted and the days went by. Shoots grew. The harvest came. Bamboo, then, became more glorious. In his beauty he was life abundant, in his brokenness he became a channel of abundant life to his master's world.

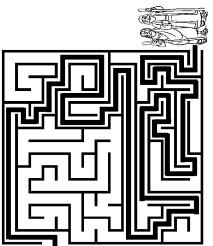
Questions

How did Bamboo help his master grow rice?

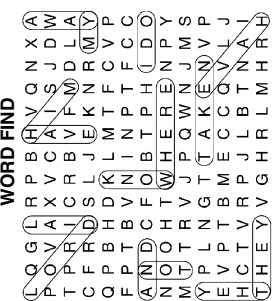
What did the disciples think when they saw that Jesus was gone from the tomb?



FIND THE BUTTERFLIES



MAZE Answers



Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 20:1-18



Word Find Puzzle

Here are thirteen words from today's Gospel story. Some are printed upside down, backwards, or at an angle. One is done for you. How many can you find?

FIND: THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY LORD, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM (v. 13).

L Q G L R P B H V Q N X A
 P O V A X V C A I S J D W
 T P R I C R B V F M D L A
 C F R D S L J E K N R M Y
 Q P B H D K L M T F C V P
 F P T B V N I N P T H I D O
 A N O D C F O B E R E N J M S
 M T O T R V J T P A K E N V L I
 Y P L N G M E C L B T M H R H
 E V P T V R B P J L R L
 H C T V V G H R L L M H R H
 T H E Y

Find The Butterflies Puzzle

How many butterflies can you find in this Gospel story picture? We found ten.



Maze

Mary has exciting news to tell the disciples. Help her find her way through the maze to the disciples by drawing a line from Mary to the disciples.

