

HARVEST ASSEMBLY 2A:

The Squirrel's Harvest

(Story Version)

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THEMES: Harvest | Autumn | Caring for Animals

STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be delivered by an adult. It consists of an introduction, a story, a summary and optional prayer. A scripted version which can be performed by children is included below.

TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text* = text that can be read straight out.

SONG 1: It's Harvest Time (Track 1) or Thank You For A New Day (Track 2)

INTRO: *It's harvest time. The time of year when we're thankful that farmers everywhere have safely harvested in all the crops, fruit and vegetables, ready for us to eat.*

Harvest always comes during the season of autumn. How do we know autumn time has arrived? Well, the signs of autumn are all around us. Green leaves have turned brown, yellow and red. Tree branches are turning bare as those leaves fall to the ground. And we have colder, wetter weather with darker evenings.

Here is a story about autumn and about the fact that it's not just farmers that gather in a harvest. This short story is called, 'The Squirrel's Harvest'.

STORY: *It was a very windy Sunday morning near the end of September. From the look and feel of the cold, wintry weather, autumn time had certainly arrived. The weather had been changing over the last week. The warm days of summer which had lasted into early September, were becoming a distant memory now, as nights were drawing in and leaves were falling from the trees.*

Two twins, Katie and Andrew were sitting in their bedroom, staring out the window at the miserable autumn weather. Although they were keeping cosy and snug in their warm house, the children were very bored. They just could not think of anything interesting to do.

The children's mother popped her head around the bedroom door and seeing the two children staring aimlessly out of the window, took pity on them and suggested that they should all go to the park to collect leaves to make an autumn picture. The twins thought that was an excellent idea and rushed off to get their coats.

Later, while the family were out collecting the leaves, Andrew spotted a small green-brown nut like thing lying on the ground.

"Mum, what on earth is this?" he inquired, lifting the strange object for his mother to see. "Is it an alien?"

“What a funny thing to say!” she remarked with a big smile on her face. “No, that’s an acorn.”

“An acorn?” he pondered. “Do you think we could use it on our autumn pictures?”

“Well, I suppose we could,” replied mum, “but a better idea would be to plant it in our garden,”

“Why?” asked Katie, “Will it turn into a flower?”

Their mother laughed. “No, but it will eventually grow into a gigantic oak tree.”

The children thought that this sounded extremely exciting and went off to see how many more acorns they could collect. The acorns they collected went into their coat pockets, while the colourful leaves went in a bag.

When they eventually arrived back at home, they fished the acorns out of their pockets and arranged them on the kitchen table. Then, they counted together, “One, two, three, four, five!”

“Right, this afternoon we will go and plant them out back,” stated Andrew.

So, after lunch the brother and sister put their coats back on and adventured out into their back garden to plant their acorns. They carefully picked five different locations around the garden where the plants would get good light. Then they gently planted one acorn in each spot.

REMAINDER OF THIS ASSEMBLY

The conclusion of this story is followed by a summary, further song suggestions and an optional prayer.