



The Growing Seed

Mark 4:26-29

Suggested setting: Kings & Kingdoms Units 5-6 puppet sketches take place around a forest campfire under a night sky with moon and stars on backdrop. Option: String a strand of white lights overhead to create a starry night effect. Adjust setting and puppet names according to available puppeteers and resources.

Characters: Ranger Ryan the Lion is the wise, fatherly forest ranger. He wears a badge and a ranger hat. He gathers everyone at the campfire to tell the lesson's parable. Delbert the Donkey and Lello the Lamb are good friends who love to sit around the campfire and listen to Ranger Ryan tell the stories Jesus told.

Leader (Stands at puppet window.)
Are you ready to sit by the campfire and hear another story from Ranger Ryan? (Children respond.) **Let's call Ranger Ryan and invite him to join us. Can you all roar with me? Rooaaaar!** (Ranger Ryan pops up near campfire.)

Ranger Ryan
Rooooaar! Ranger Ryan here. Hello, boys and girls. Come on and let's gather by the campfire. I've brought a special friend with me today. It's someone you know very well. Help me call for Delbert. (Leader and children call with Ranger Ryan.) **Dehhhhhl-bert Dehhhhhl-bert!**

Delbert
Hee Haw! Hi, boys and girls. I see you all know my friend, Ranger Ryan.

Leader
We sure do. Last time, he told us a story Jesus told about a lost sheep.

Delbert
Haw! I love Jesus' stories!

Ranger Ryan
So do I. Are you ready to hear today's story?

Delbert
What story are you going to tell us?

Ranger Ryan
This story is about a growing seed.

Delbert
Boys and girls, do you want to hear this story, too? (Children respond.)

Leader
Go on Ranger Ryan, we're ready.

Ranger Ryan
This is a story Jesus told. He said, "Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Night and day the seed comes up and grows."

Delbert
Haw! I love when plants grow.

Ranger Ryan

Jesus said, "The seed grows whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens. Without his help, the seed grows."

Delbert

What happens?

Ranger Ryan

Jesus said, "First the stalk comes up. Then the top appears. Finally, the top is filled with grain that's ripe and ready for the farmer to gather it!"

Delbert

Haw! I love grain! People use it to make cereal and bread. But, I just eat it plain!

Leader

I love the way God makes plants grow—even while we are sleeping!

Ranger Ryan

Why yes, God is in control of everything, even the growing of one tiny seed.

Delbert

Haw! God is so great! Thank you for the story, Ranger Ryan.

Leader

Yes! We love hearing Jesus' stories. Don't we, boys and girls? (Children respond.)

Ranger Ryan

And I love telling Jesus' stories. Well, my little ones, it's time for me to check on the other campfires in the forest.

Delbert

Can I come, too?

Ranger Ryan

Sure!

Leader

Will you meet us back here next time?

Ranger Ryan

Yes, I'd love to. See you arrrrround. (Pronounced with a friendly roar.)

Delbert

Haw! See you guys later! (Braying)

Leader & Children

Bye, Ranger Ryan! Bye, Delbert!

(All exit.)