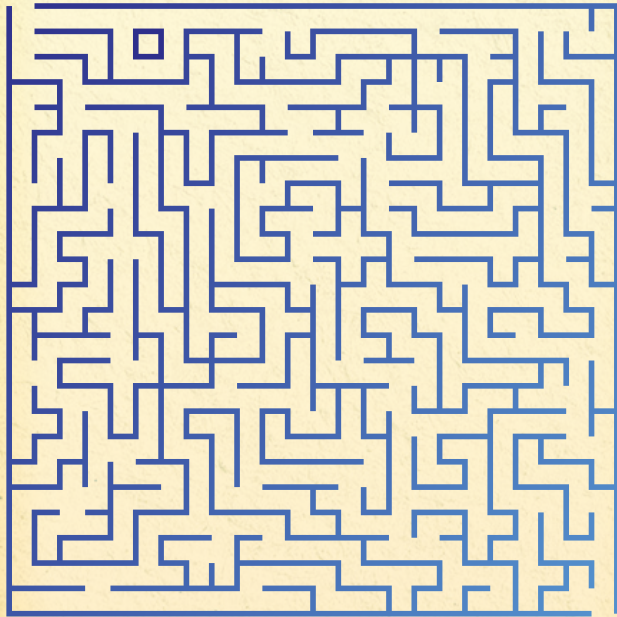





Help the scientist find the
special nutrient!



Excellent work!



The Church is Strengthened




Growing: The Church is Strengthened

Key Verse — Acts 12:24

In today's story, the workers had promised the scientist that they would not only feed their own people, but also go and cultivate trees far and wide so that more people could eat and live. However, they became selfish and only sowed and grew trees for their local families and friends. Because no one was volunteering to fulfill their agreement, the scientist limited access to the Super Trees so that someone would have to move elsewhere and fulfill the original mission.

This might seem harsh, but it's very similar to how God allowed the church at Jerusalem to be persecuted by the local government and others so they would be forced to leave their own people and carry God's message to the rest of the world. Jesus had told his followers to preach the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judaea, and the uttermost part of the Earth. Jesus' followers in the early church were forced out of their comfort zone and compelled to become Messengers carrying the Message to faraway lands.



Have you ever met someone who may be a little *different* than you? Do they *look* differently or talk *differently* than you? How does it make you feel to be around them? Does it make you feel a little *uncomfortable*? This is exactly how the farmers felt in our story about those who were not like them. Likewise, the Jews in the Bible also had a hard time going to those who were not exactly like them to tell them about the Gospel. Do you remember the stories about the Good Samaritan and the woman at the well? Jesus told us that we were to tell everyone about the Gospel no matter what they look like or how they speak. What are some things *you* can do to reach all the world with the Gospel?

