



The carob tree is a very common tree in Israel. This tree has thick leaves. It gives a good shade.

The tree grows a brown leather-like pod. This pod may be as long as 10 inches. Most pods are about 6 inches long. Inside the pod there is a sweet pulp. This is fed to cattle. Sometimes men ate it too if food was very scarce. One large carob tree makes 3000 pounds of pods each year.

Do you remember the story of the young man who left home and went to a far country. He got a job taking care of pigs. He said that he got so hungry he wanted to fill his stomach with what the pigs ate. Perhaps these husks were the pod of the carob tree. Even today carob pods are fed to animals.

(Luke 15:16)

TURN CARD OVER

These pods of the carob tree sometimes are called the locust. Many people believe that the locust which John the Baptist ate was this pod of this carob tree, not an insect. This is why some people call the carob pod, "St. John's bread."