

BIBLE GARDEN SCHOOL

Take Root & Grow

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FIRST GARDENER

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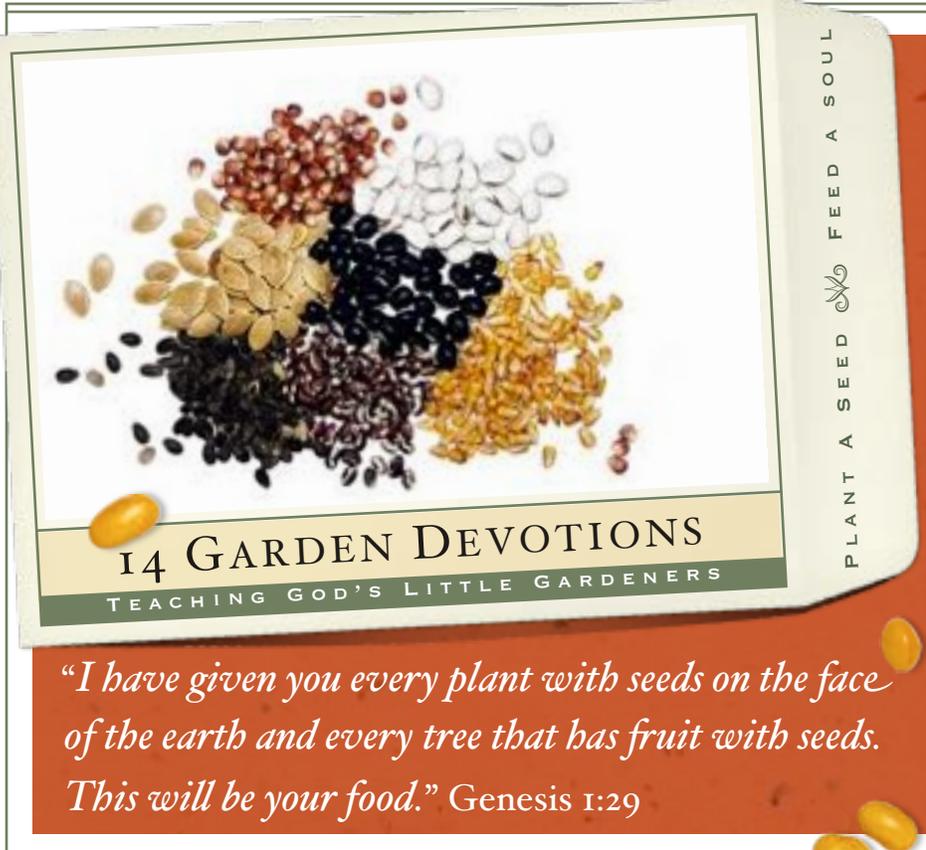
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"I have given you every plant with seeds on the face of the earth and every tree that has fruit with seeds. This will be your food." Genesis 1:29

Hope Seeds invites and encourages you to worship God the Creator of all things even as you garden. The planning for, the tending to, and the the planting and harvest are all actions which remind us of God and his provisions. We can thank Him as we work in our own garden plot.

Plant a Seed! Feed a Soul!



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Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



These are God’s first words to us in the Bible. There are two important ideas for us to think about.

“In the beginning” - This is not the beginning of God, for he has no beginning; this we accept by faith. Rather, it is the beginning of all the things in the world. Creation is the work of God; the separation of light and darkness, the moon and the stars of the sky, the dry land from the water, plant life, fish and things of the water, animals and things of the land and man.



“God created” - This means that all the things he created are made from nothing but his words. He did not use raw materials to build his creation. He said it should be and it was – by his words.

The world was created and became God’s garden. It was perfect. It contained everything people needed for a healthy life.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for creating everything in the world. Help me to think of you when I see your creation all around me. **Amen.**

Garden Plot Selection and Preparation

The Lord took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Genesis 2:15



God made man and placed him in a beautiful garden. When finished, God said his work was ‘very good,’ and man could honor him by taking care of all creation. This garden work was not to be difficult or tiresome, but enjoyable for man and very pleasing to God.



When we take care of our belongings it is a way to honor him. Think of the important things you have and how you are careful to keep them safe.

God cares for us and he loves us. He gave us food from the garden and other plants for healthy bodies and the Bible to care for our souls. Let us talk about some ways we can show thankfulness to God.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for your creation. Please help me to take care of everything you have given me.

Amen.

Plant Groups

I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. This will be yours for food.”

Genesis 1:29



When God created the world, he gave us the gift of many types of fruits and vegetables. Their different colors, size, taste and nutrition add to the pleasure of growing our garden. Each type has its own seeds that can be planted to grow more food so we will always have food to eat. God wants all people to have the food they need to be strong and healthy. He wants us to share our food with our neighbors. Let us talk about some ways we can share food with others.



Jesus taught us that just as the body needs food for strength and nourishment, our souls also need to have nourishment to be strong. This food for our faith comes from his words in the Bible that we study and learn. The Holy Spirit helps us believe these words and strengthens our faith that

Jesus died for our sins and gives us forgiveness, and life everlasting with him in heaven. We are so blessed that God provides for the needs of our body and soul.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for giving me food for my body and your Word for my soul. Show me how to help others who do not have enough to eat.

Amen.

Vegetable Seed Selection

Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.”

Proverbs 24:27



The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of sayings and word pictures that Solomon and other wise men wrote down to share important life lessons. God inspired these writers to give us divine truth in somewhat easy and more understandable words about living as a believer in God’s word.

Everyone must work hard each day to have a better life. God taught us in his word to take care of his creation and to grow plants for our food.



Gardening requires planning, care and learning to grow young plants into plants to be harvested. It is smart to do the outside work while conditions and the seasons permit.

The preparation of fields and planting of seeds will bring about the harvest of food that is necessary for life. Then the building of one’s house can follow. The idea of building one’s house can also refer to the larger concept of building love, values, and character in the family.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for the sun and rain and for seeds that grow. Help me to do my best work when there are jobs to be done. **Amen.**

Garden Tools

He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have fill of poverty.”

Proverbs 28:19



The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of wise sayings, written by King Solomon of Israel. God blessed him to be the wisest of all kings. Did you ever hear the saying: “If you want to eat, you must work”? That saying also comes from the Bible, 2 Thessalonians 3:10. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, God said that all people would have to work hard for food.



If you are daydreaming when you should be paying attention, you cannot learn about what or how you should do something. If a gardener does not plant his seed at the right time, he will not have a good crop. When we keep at our tasks and learn, we can then help others.

Let us talk about some ways we do our work as gardeners that are pleasing to God.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for giving me time to work and time to play. Help me to know when it is time to work and to keep my mind on what I am doing. Amen.

Compost and Manure

A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 'Sir', the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it (with manure). If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down!'

Luke 13:6-9



Jesus told stories called parables that tell a truth or a lesson. In this parable, the man who owned the fig tree is God. The tree that has no figs (a small pear-shaped fruit) is like people who have no faith and can do no good work in God's eyes. Jesus is the one who wants to fertilize the tree and try to save it.



We are like the sick tree and can do no good work without Jesus in our life. We learn from Bible lessons, pastors, teachers and parents to do good work in God's eyes by showing us how to live. Think about a time when you failed to do something right the first time you did it.

When others work with us and teach us to correct our mistakes, we can learn to get it right. Getting another chance helps garden plants just as it helps people direct their lives. Let's talk about times when we have given plants or other people a second chance.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for loving us. Help me to be thankful for your forgiveness of my wrongdoings and give me the strength to do what is right. Amen.

Good Seed and Nutrition

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

2 Corinthians 9:10



God created plants with seeds in them so we may eat them and use the seed to grow more food in the future. This design allows mankind to have food year after year, season after season. The people who believe in God will see his blessings and be willing to share their harvest with others.



Seeds of faith are to be sown in the hearts of people so they too can grow. The faith in Jesus which grows will produce acts of kindness and love.

Actions of Kindness reflect the love Jesus has for all people. Then more seeds of faith are sown year after year, season after season.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for your Word that tells me about your love and forgiveness, and is like seed planted in my heart. Help me to live in a way that shows strong faith. **Amen.**

Transplanting

Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

James 1:21



We are born with the problem of sin inside ourselves; it is evident in our selfishness, pride and actions that are opposite to what God would have us do. We see sin in the world around us. People don't treat each other with respect; they are mean, hurt each other, steal things and even kill others.

In the Bible, James says that we need to get rid of these wrong actions and ideas both inside and outside our bodies and listen to the word of God from the Bible, pastors and teachers. The Holy Spirit leads us to repent of sin, plants faith in our hearts to believe, and obey the word of God. We are transplanted from a life of sin to the



assurance that we will grow up to be strong Christians and live with Jesus always.

As children grow, they need the protection and guidance of parents and adults to allow them to be 'transplanted' into the adult world where they continue to grow as faithful followers of Jesus. Think of a time when someone protected you from danger such as a bad storm, a fire or animal. Can

you share a story with us about a time like that? There are other evil things in this world that people do to each other that God calls "sin". God wants us to ask for forgiveness and do the things that please him. He wants us to show others the right way to treat each other. Jesus showed us how to live and treat each other by the way he lived his life.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for teachers and pastors who teach me about the Bible and Jesus. I am sorry for my words and deeds that are sinful. Please help me to do the right things in life, to think good thoughts and to remember the lessons that I have been taught. **Amen.**

Proper Planting of Seeds

I planted the seed,
Apollos watered it, but
God made it Grow.”

1 Corinthians 3:6



The first step in growing food is to put the seed into the soil. These seeds have not been planted before and they need to be watered and cared for. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul compares the garden to seeds of faith that are planted in our hearts. Paul planted the seeds of faith by telling others about Jesus. Paul’s friend, Apollos watered these words of God by teaching and helping the seeds of faith to grow. Pastors, teachers and parents also help to teach, but it is God’s Holy Spirit who gives the understanding for the seed of faith to grow. In the end, it is God alone who makes that seed of faith grow.



If you planted a seed, then went away for several days, how would you make sure the seed is cared for? You might ask someone to watch and water if needed.

What has Jesus done for you to help your faith grow? He gave you pastors and teachers who use God’s word to give you information about Jesus’ life.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for my friends and family that help me to do well. Thank you for your Word that makes my faith strong. **Amen.**

Garden Watering and Protection

The Lord will guide you always, he will satisfy your needs in a scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

1 Corinthians 3:6



God calls us to be faithful to him in word and deed. He wants us to depend on him for all our needs of body and soul. God promises to provide for our needs. He provides water for plants so they grow and he gives us a good harvest of nutritional food.



Water is such an important thing for every living creature and plants, that God talks about it often in the Bible. Water refreshes a person's body, like God's word protects and saves our soul to do his will and live a God-pleasing life.

What do you think of when someone says 'bubbling spring'? It describes how water can come bubbling up in certain places, to provide refreshment for humans, animals and to pour on plants. Where does your water come from?



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for water to drink and water for plants to grow. Help me to remember that plants, flowers, and all living things need water. Amen.

Weeds, Insects & Diseases in the Garden

To Adam God said: “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3:17-19



Adam and Eve lived in a perfect, beautiful garden that God gave them to work and enjoy. God gave them only one warning - that they should not eat from the tree in the center of the garden. When they disobeyed God and ate fruit of the forbidden tree, they sinned. God punished them and sent them out of the perfect garden.



Ever since then all people will sin and disappoint God. Now we work hard in our gardens struggling with unwanted plants, insects, and diseases. It is not easy or joy-filled work as it was in the Garden of Eden. But we will still see the promise of God because we will have food to eat.

Our sins are like the unwanted plants and insects of our garden, always trying to make us do wrong things and disobey God. But there is good news! Because of Jesus we can one day walk with God the way Adam and Eve did before sin.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for the vegetables and flowers in our garden. Help me to work hard to pull the weeds out of my garden AND the ones in my heart. Amen.

Mulching the Garden

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.”
Matthew 12:33



Jesus told this parable because the religious leaders at that time said that Jesus was a false prophet because he could cast out demons. They did not believe he was the son of God or in his power and mercy.

If a farmer feeds his crops with good things like plant food and covers the ground around the tree with mulch, such as leaves or grass clippings, the crop will produce in abundance. If a farmer does not take care of his crop, then it will not produce good fruit.



Just as a tree is known by its good fruit, God's people are known by their good deeds. As we grow in the knowledge of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will produce fruit in our lives. Do other people know that you are a Christian?



Prayer

Dear God:

Help me to be ready to tell others about my faith in you and to act in ways that show that I love you. Amen.

Pruning and Thinning Plants

I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

John 15:1 - 2



This is a parable that Jesus told to help us understand how important it is to be connected to God through studying his Word and following him. Jesus says that he is the true vine that comes off the main branch, which is God. We are like shoots off the vines that Jesus protects and cares for. If your life bears no fruit, it shows you have little faith.



Pruning and thinning help a plant produce good food. If your vine bears fruit it could be pruned, which is trimmed or thinned, and then you will produce even more fruit.

Pruning is like the hardships and trials of life; those things are not pleasant. How do hardships make us stronger? They draw us closer to God when we pray and ask Him to help us.



Prayer

Dear God:

Draw us closer to you in all we say and do.

Amen.

Trellis or Staking or Arbor for Plants

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5



Jesus tells us that he is the vine and we are branches. The vine gives life to the branches by bringing food and water to them. What happens if we follow him? We will bear much fruit and our lives will be blessed. A branch is only able to live if it is connected to the vine. When it is connected, leaves sprout and later fruit will grow. The same thing happens to us when we grow in spiritual fruit...we are growing in God.



Jesus wants us to be faithful to him just as he is faithful to us. He wants us to read the Bible and pray and praise him by doing good works.

We will bear much fruit because we remain faithful, believing his word, trusting and serving Jesus all our lives.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for understanding that I cannot do everything by myself. Forgive me when I do wrong. Help me to ask for help when I need it, and to say thank you when I get help. **Amen.**

Harvesting the Garden

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9



God has his own timetable for when he lets things happen. We often find this difficult because we want things to happen how and when we would like. He tells us that we will be blessed in this life and in heaven when we have faith in his way and his time. We must be patient and keep working hard, never giving up on ourselves.



As we depend on Jesus for his strength and endurance, we will enjoy doing good. Then the ‘harvest’ will be our greatest joy as we celebrate in life everlasting in heaven.

How do we learn about God’s time for our lives? By reading our Bible and listening to pastors and teachers as they tell us about God’s love and care for us.



Prayer

Dear God:

Thank you for your creation and gardens that give us food. Amen.