



Discovery

Phase 7

Gardening

Week 1

May 18, 2011

Knowledge Quest : Gardening- Seeds & Planting



Gardening is for everyone! It is fun and easy with great surprises and rewards. Every garden is different. Some are small, some large, some in a yard, and some on a windowsill. Gardens can even be grown in pots. But no matter where they are grown or who grows them, gardens are an important part of our daily lives.

Without them, we wouldn't have all the great fruits and vegetables that feed our bodies and help us grow strong. Neither would we have all the beautiful flowers and plants that make our world such a wonderful place to explore and enjoy.

Every garden begins with first preparing the soil. Tools like shovels, rakes, and hoes, along with other special tools, are used to remove rocks and weeds and to till or loosen the soil before planting. Once the soil is loose, a good natural fertilizer, like compost, can be used to help plants grow faster, larger, and stronger.

Most kinds of plants grown in gardens are started from seeds. Seeds are living things which grow inside a shell that protects them. God designed them so their shells contain special food for the baby plant inside. The plant lives off this food when it is covered with soil and water. It's amazing how a seed can be kept for many years and yet still grow when you plant it!



When you plant a seed and it sprouts it's called *germination*. Once the tiny plant has eaten all of the food inside its shell, it springs up through the soil and searches for light. In Israel scientists discovered a seed from a Date Palm tree that was 2000 years old. When it was planted and watered, this ancient seed sprouted into a new plant. Now that's amazing!

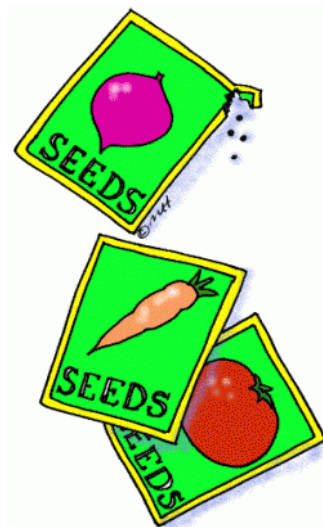
Character Challenge:

Patience- the ability to calmly put up with pain or trouble without getting upset or angry
(Romans 12:12; Hebrews 6:12; Proverbs 19:11)

Gratitude- the feeling of being thankful; gratefulness
(Psalm 118:24; Colossians 3:17; Psalm 136:1)

Did You Know?

Plants actually clean the air we breathe. They remove carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with fresh oxygen our bodies use to keep us going.



Bible Quest : Sowing Seeds of Faith

Scripture Memory Challenge:



One day, pointing to a farmer in the distance who was planting a field, Jesus told a story about planting seeds. Planting seeds is also known as “sowing”. Everyone looked at the farmer as he was working, and Jesus began His parable:

There was once a farmer who went out planting seeds all around. Some of the seeds fell along the edge of a well-traveled pathway. Because the soil was worn down and hard, the seeds bounced around on the hard soil and were eaten by birds. Other seed fell on rocky ground and sprouted quickly. But because there were no roots or water, the sprouts withered and died. And some seed fell among thorns. As the young plants sprouted and began to grow, the

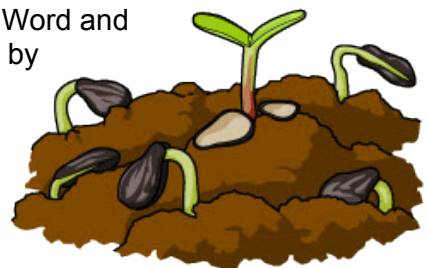
thorns twisted around them and choked the life out of them. Finally, some of the seed fell into good, deep soil that was rich and fertile. The seeds sprouted and grew, producing crops that were 100 times more than were sown.

The crowd wondered what Jesus meant. Later that night when Jesus and His disciples were together alone, one of Jesus’ disciples asked what the parable meant. He and the other disciples were also puzzled as to what it meant. Jesus said that He would reveal to His friends the secret hidden message. And this is what He told them:

The farmer is someone who spreads the Word of God to people about Jesus. The seed represents how people react to the Word of God in their lives. The seeds that fell along the hardened pathway and were eaten by birds represent those who hear God’s Word, but the devil comes along and snatches it from their hearts before they can believe and be saved. The seeds falling on the rocky ground are those who hear God’s Word and become excited about it. But since they are not rooted and grounded in Jesus, they forget God’s Word or give up on it whenever problems come against them. The seeds that fall into the thorns represent those who hear and accept God’s Word but are distracted by things like wanting to be rich or successful, or the worries in their lives. They cannot concentrate on God’s Word and it is choked out by these distractions before it has a chance to grow in their lives. .

Finally, the seed that lands in the good soil represents those who hear God’s Word and it takes root in their hearts. They dwell on God’s Word and choose to act on it by trusting Him. After waiting patiently, their faithfulness results in a bountiful harvest which produces good fruit. (Matthew 13)

Let’s discuss what this story means to you and me today. What was Jesus talking about when He spoke of “God’s Word”? How can God’s Word “take root” in your heart? What do you think He meant by “good fruit”?



Luke 8:15

“And the seed that fell on the good ground is like those who hear God’s teaching with good, honest hearts and obey it and patiently produce good fruit.” (NCV)

Did You Know?

Jesus told stories to crowds and passers by. The stories He told were called *parables* which means a story within a story that has deeper meaning.