

Time to Grow

By Erin Davis

Plant a container garden together to celebrate spring as a time to grow new things and to practice working together to create something new.

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Five gallon container, soil, watering can, plants or seeds, trowel, gardening gloves, Bible

Prepare in Advance

Purchase supplies, including plants or seeds.

Activity Plan

1. Read The Parable of the Sower from Mark 4:3-9 aloud together (see next page). Discuss these questions: What is this parable about? Why did some seed grow and some die? Why is it important to be smart about where and how seeds are planted?

2. Pray together:

Holy Creator, you planted each of us in this world. Help us show the care you give to us to everyone we meet. Amen.

3. Decide what you want to plant in your container garden and gather supplies. You can start from seeds, or for faster growth, get some starter plants from your local nursery. Some ideas include: Pizza Garden (tomatoes, basil, oregano), Peas in a Pod (sugar snap peas, green beans), Peas 'n Carrots (carrots, peas), Tossed Salad (lettuce, cucumber, carrots) or any other veggie your family loves to eat. Keep in mind that each plant should have its own five-gallon container. Herbs can be added to other containers. If you're planting tomatoes, don't forget the cage!
4. Plant your container garden. Place soil in the container, add the seeds or plant, fill the rest of the container with soil, then add water. Be sure to place containers where they will get enough light and water them regularly.
5. Come back together and read Mark 4:14-20 (see next page). Talk about these questions: What kind of sower does Jesus want us to be? How can we plant God's love in each other and in our friends and family?
6. Pray together:
Holy Planter, you have planted the seeds of your love in us. Help us learn to sow those seeds – in our family, in our friends, in the community and in the world. Help our garden grow, and remind us every day to treat each other with the same care that we give this garden. Amen.
7. Care for your garden as a family, and enjoy the things you grow together. Take weekly pictures of your garden and post them to **Vibrant Faith @ Home**.



Mark 4:3-9

"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Mark 4:14-20

The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."