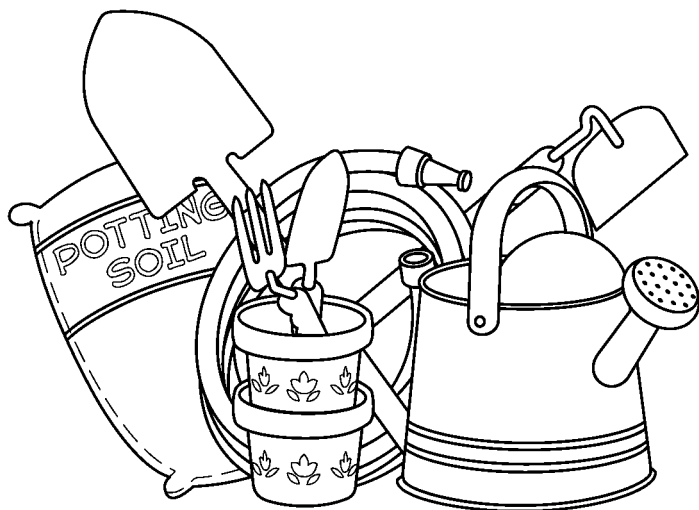


Preparing for Growth



Neither he who plants nor he who waters
is anything, but ONLY God, who makes
things grow. -1Corinthians 3:7

A prayer guide.

Preparing for Growth

A truth to remember:

Only God makes things grow and become fruitful.

All the planting and watering amounts to nothing
if the seeds don't grow and mature.

This is true both agriculturally and spiritually.

We can't make anything grow but we can prepare
to receive a blessing of growth from God.

Use this guide to spend time in His Word and prayer.

Invite Him to guide you in preparing
your heart for growth.

Make space.

Take your time.

Walk through the prayer guide.

In one sitting.

Or break it up into a series.

Read Luke 8:4-15

The SEED is the Word of God.

The SOIL is the heart. soul. spirit. of the people who hear it.

JESUS describes four types of soil where the Sower sows the Word.

A PATH. What is the primary characteristic of the path? What happens to the Word sown here?

Close your eyes. Breathe deep. Ask God:

Where is my heart – my spirit – like a hard-packed path?

Where or how am I unreceptive to Your Word?

Pause and take note of what He reveals.

Open your heart:

Lord, show me how to prepare this path to receive Your Word.

Spend a moment listening with a heart willing to obey.

ROCKY SOIL. What is the primary characteristic of rocky soil? What happens to the Word scattered here?

Close your eyes. Breathe deep. Ask God:

What are the hard places in my heart? Where am I not

allowing Your Word to take root? What is my resistance?

Listen and take note of what He reveals.

Open your heart:

Lord, show me how to break up and throw out the rocks

keeping me from rooting deep in Your Word.

Spend a moment listening with a heart willing to obey.

WEEDY GROUND. What is the primary characteristic of weedy ground? What happens to the Word planted here?

Close your eyes. Breathe deep. Ask God:

Where is my spirit filled with weeds?

What is choking out Your Word in my life?

Pause and take note of what He reveals.

Open your heart:

Lord, show me how to pull up the weeds stifling my relationship with You. Teach me to make space for You and Your Word.

Take a moment and listen with a spirit willing to obey.

GOOD SOIL. What happens to the seed planted in good soil? What traits mark a heart. spirit. soul. prepared to receive His Word?

Close your eyes. Breathe deep. Ask God:

How have I embraced Your Word and let Your truth transform my life? What fruit are You growing in me?

Be still. Let God reveal where He is blessing you with growth.

Open your heart:

Lord, thank You. Show me how to continue to be receptive to Your Word in my life.

Pause and listen for His guidance.

Surrender.

The one who plants and the one who waters work as one, but each will receive his reward according to his work. We are coworkers belonging to God. You are God's field, God's building.

1Corinthians 3:8-9 NET

Open your heart:

Lord, I am Your field. Guide me in the work needed to prepare my heart, mind, and body to be wholly devoted to You. Bless me with the faith to pursue and be all You call me to be. Amen.

Repeat.

Return to God as needed for guidance and counsel in preparing the soil of your life as good soil ready to receive the blessing of growth.