



## EYESORE

### Inside this issue:

Devotional 1

Coloring Page 2

Kids Corner 3

Kids Zone 3

My Bible Study 4

#### Pastoral Note

*Dear boys and girls,*

*Spring is here! The sun is shining the birds are chirping and the flowers are blooming.*

*Jesus, our Creator, is happy to see us grow and blossom in His love and Word.*

*Hugs and love,  
Pastor Michelle*

The lot was filled with weeds, rocks, and broken glass. People had dumped their trash in the old abandoned lot. A house sat right in the middle of the lot. Its windows were broken and it had rats and mice and other creepy things. People went out of their way to avoid this spot. The only thing that could fix this lot was a bulldozer.

One beautiful spring morning, a lady known as "The Gardener" walked by the old lot. The weeds were waist high and flies were buzzing around the trash. The poor house looked sadder than it ever had. The woman paused, then began to walk around the outside of the lot. People watched as she took down several pages of notes, then quickly walked away.

Word spread throughout the town that the woman was going to demand the city clean up the lot, bulldoze the house to the ground, and plow it under. How could anyone be upset with her? After all, the lot gave the whole town a bad reputation. It just wasn't right having an eyesore like that in our town," the people would say. "Someone had to do something!"

Several days later the Gardener walked into City Hall. The clerk knew the city didn't have the money that it would take to clean up the lot. The Gardener walked up to the desk, pulled out her notes and said something the clerk would never forget. She asked, "How much is the abandoned house and lot at 371 Beacon street? I'd like to buy it." The rumors around town couldn't have been further from the truth. The Gardener didn't want to destroy the lot, she wanted to buy it.



The clerk found the records and said "It would be costly to buy it and to clean it up." "Is the property for sale or not?" the Gardener replied. The Clerk scratched his head. "Yes Ma'am, the lot is for sale." Hearing that, the Gardener bought the worthless eyesore, right then and there.

All summer long, she and her husband worked extra hard. They cleared weeds, removed trash, made major repairs to the house. They trimmed the trees and bushes, and planted many kinds of beautiful flowers. They added a cobblestone walkway and a small pond with a fountain. The lot that was once such an eyesore had now become a beautiful showplace. Love, time and work had transformed the lot. Now, people went out of their way just to walk by and take a look at the beautiful view of the property. What the Gardener did next also surprised the whole town. She hung a sign out front that read:

### THE GARDEN CENTER - NOW OPEN - FREE GARDENING LESSONS

She knew her lot could be restored because when she was younger, someone else taught her how to do it. Now, she wanted to teach others how to transform eyesores into things of beauty. And before long, the whole town was indeed a place of beauty.

Some people are like the old house sitting in the middle of a trashy lot. People go out of their way to avoid them. The Bible says that we all have trash in our lives. The trash in our life is called sin. The Good News is that none of us are worthless in God's eyes. In fact, His will is that none of us perish (2 Peter 3:9). He wants us to get rid of the sin in our lives. We need to ask Jesus to forgive us and create for us a new heart. Then, just like the gardener, you will want to share the good news with others. You can let others know about the wonderful work God has done in your life. Think about this: When you look at others do you see an eyesore or a garden?

**"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."**

**John 15:5**



# KIDS' ZONE

## Sunflowers



- The sunflower is a large inflorescence, this means the flower head is actually made of many tiny flowers called florets. Central florets look like the center of a normal flower while the outer florets look like yellow petals and together they make up a "false flower".

- The stem of a sunflower can grow up to 10 feet tall and the flower head can be 30 cm wide.

- Sunflowers are very fast growing plants, in the right conditions they can grow 8-12 feet tall in six months.
- There are two kinds of sunflower seeds. Sunflower oil which is used in cooking and in margarines is made from black seeds. Snack foods is made from the striped seeds. The seeds can also be used as bird feed.
- The sunflower is native to the America's and was used extensively by Native American Indians for food, as oil in bread, medical ointments, dyes and body paints.
- Sunflowers can be used to extract toxins such as lead, arsenic and uranium from contaminated soil. For example, sunflowers were used to remove toxins from a pond after the Chernobyl disaster and similar projects took place after the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

## Trees



- Tree rings provide precise information about environmental events, including volcanic eruptions.
- A mature birch tree can produce up to 1 million seeds per year.
- Trees are the longest living organisms on earth.
- Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves.
- Trees and other plants make their food through a process called photosynthesis.
- The inside of a tree is made of phloem, cambium, and xylem.
- The xylem of a tree carries water from the roots to the leaves.



## The True Vine

John 15:1-8



- True
- Vine
- Father
- Gardener
- Branch
- Bear
- Fruit
- Prunes
- Remain
- Me

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | O | P | Z | G | A | R | D | E | N | E | R | V | X | R |
| I | N | Z | G | H | A | V | A | K | N | Y | W | L | W | S |
| R | R | S | I | C | Z | E | G | L | O | R | Y | U | E | O |
| E | M | E | J | Q | R | V | J | V | W | I | K | N | K | C |
| R | Y | C | M | E | C | H | Y | T | O | P | U | N | P | L |
| D | O | U | H | A | Q | Q | M | E | H | R | H | M | S | E |
| E | B | T | H | N | I | S | B | I | P | R | Q | O | B | A |
| U | A | R | Z | S | K | N | L | D | B | B | O | T | X | N |
| F | W | D | A | Y | C | Z | Q | M | R | D | C | W | G | F |
| V | C | I | G | N | P | T | T | M | E | O | D | C | N | N |
| W | I | U | T | A | C | G | W | N | B | T | R | U | E | T |
| I | O | N | O | H | A | H | R | I | E | X | K | Z | I | H |
| Y | T | R | E | T | E | U | U | F | A | X | V | U | M | O |
| V | J | A | D | X | B | R | K | H | R | N | R | M | H | V |
| Q | N | P | Y | S | H | T | S | O | K | F | H | R | H | X |



## The ULTIMATE Gardener

**“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of Mine that bears no fruit, He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”**  
**John 15: 1-2**

“The Jews had always regarded the vine as the most noble of plants, and the type of all that was powerful, excellent, and fruitful. Israel had been represented as a vine which God had planted in the promised land. They Jews based their hope of salvation on the fact of their connection with Israel. But Jesus says, I am the real vine. Think not that through a connection with Israel you may become partakers of the life of God, and inheritors of His promise. Through me alone is spiritual life received.” - *From Desire of Ages, page 675*



1. **Who is the Gardener?** God, the Father
2. **What does the Gardener do?** Takes care of the garden, makes sure that the branches are clean and attached to the vine to bear fruit. He can also graft into the vine any branch so that it will also bear fruit (Romans 11:15-21).
3. **Who is the true Vine?** Jesus
4. **What does the Vine do?** Bears branches
5. **Who are the branches?** Believers in Jesus
6. **What do the branches do?** Bear fruit
7. **Can the branches bear fruit if they are cut off from the Vine?** No

The branches need to remain in the vine so that they will bear fruit. Just like branches, we need to trust the ultimate Gardener, God, who gave Jesus to die for our sins. We also need to always trust in Jesus, the true Vine.

### ORIGINAL MEANING

In the original language of the New Testament, Koine Greek, the word for VINEDRESSER is **γεωργός** (georgos) which is made up of two words **GE** (earth) and **ERGON** (work).

**Jesus, the Earthworker, created us from the Earth in His image (Genesis 1 and 2).**

### TRUE OR FALSE:

Branches are broken off the Vine when we don't believe in Jesus. Romans 11:20 **T or F**

The Holy Spirit chooses (*establishes*) us to bear fruit. John 15:16 (NJK) **T or F**

### CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much (**Vines, Nuts, Fruit, Branches**); so you will be My disciples." John 15:8 (NKJ)

"You are already clean because of the (**Parable, Story, Word, Truth**) which I have spoken to you." John 15:3 (NKJ)

### MULTIPLE CHOICE:

What does God do with branches that do not produce fruit? John 15:2 (NKJ)

- A. Crushes    B. Takes away    C. Chops    D. Grinds**

How much can we do without Jesus in our lives? John 15:5 (NKJ)

- A. Only some things    B. Everything    C. Nothing    D. Most things**

Dear Jesus, Help me to depend on You and trust You.  
Thank you for making me special and in Your image.  
Help me to do what is right in Your eyes. Amen