
The Law of the Harvest

Hymn: [The Prophet Said to Plant a Garden, Children's Songbook 237](#)

Scriptures and Quotes:

[Mark 4:1-9](#) “Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

[D&C 6:33](#) “Whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap; therefore, if ye sow good ye shall also reap good for your reward.”

“The spring of the year reminds us, too, of the need to garden so that we can produce some of our own food as well as flowers to beautify our yards and our neighborhoods. Even if the tomato you eat is a \$2.00 tomato, it will bring satisfaction anyway and remind us all of the law of the harvest, which is relentless in life. We do reap what we sow. Even if the plot of soil you cultivate, plant, and harvest is a small one, it brings human nature closer to nature as was the case in the beginning with our first parents.” —[Spencer W. Kimball](#)

Overview:

Jesus often talked about seeds and working the soil to plant. He taught that tiny seeds become very large plants, that well-prepared ground gives the best chances for a healthy plant, and that working hard in a garden will bring blessings.

Planting a seed is a demonstration of faith. Acting on that faith, we have to tend the seed, giving it nutrients, sun, and water, for it to grow up and provide fruit. The Law of the Harvest teaches us that what we give, we will get back—often in abundance. It is important to remember that what we put into the soil, the water, and the air will come back to us again.

We can learn so much that is spiritual by practicing temporal activities. No wonder we have been counseled to plant gardens!

Activity Ideas

For young children:

Gather up seeds of different types and sizes (e.g. mustard seeds, strawberries, apple seeds, lemon pips, peach stone, avocado pit, beans, peas, sunflower seeds). Explain how the plant has a cycle (seed-plant flower-fruit-seed) that can continue to provide the fruit over and over.

Teach the lesson of the Parable of the Sower by using a brick, a small bowl of pebbles, a small bowl of thorns or thistles, and a small bowl of potting soil. Talk about the conditions of each scenario and why the seed will struggle or thrive depending on the soil.

For older children:

Plan out a plot of ground in your yard, at a community patch, or in a few pots, and give your child some options for vegetables that will grow in your area. Have them prepare and amend the soil, plant seeds or small plants, and give them the responsibility to keep their plot weed-free and well-tended for a year.

Treat Ideas

- [Dirt and Worms Pudding Cups](#)
- [Roasted Squash Seeds](#)
- [Carrot Cake](#)

Additional Resources

- Elder L. Tom Perry has a wonderful article called [The Law of the Harvest](#) that would be perfect to read as a family.
- Take a look at [The Growing Season](#) art collection by Latter-day Saint artists.
- Learn how to [start seeds indoors](#).
- [Here](#) are some easy plants for kids to grow.
- Learn more about the importance of heirloom seeds and join with others in a [Seed Savers Exchange](#).
- Learn a pesticide-free way to grow healthy vegetables by [interplanting](#).
- Look for the links included in this lesson in our “Plant a Garden” album on [Pinterest](#).