

# PLANNING YOUR FAMILY GARDEN

*A discussion guide after watching the video on the Growing Families website this month.*



Toddlers and young children have a coloring sheet to help them visualize a garden while your family discusses the topic. Your family may have children at different developmental levels. If you cannot engage all ages together, continue the conversation on a deeper level with the older children at a later time.

## **Read Genesis 2:8-15.**

What do you notice in this story? Who was the first gardener? What was Adam's first job?

Like Adam, we are gardeners, and our family is a garden to tend. These questions will guide a family spiritual conversation. You may choose to write your answers in your notebooks or simply discuss them together.

- How do you take care of each other in your family?
- What are ways you love God and each other? Examples: Play together, serve each other, read our Bible, or talk to God.
- Gardens grow many good things. What attitudes and actions do you want to grow in your family garden? Examples: Love, kindness, mercy, fun, happy people, or loving God.
- All gardens have pests that can harm the plants. Name a pest that could nibble away at the growth in your family garden. Examples: Too much time on screens, busyness, arguing and fighting, or not enough sleep.
- Fences keep out pests that harm the garden. How could you build a strong fence to help your family grow and keep out pests? Example: Setting healthy boundaries such as saying no to over-scheduling, checking on each other to make sure no one's feelings get hurt, keeping a family calendar of events, and keeping promises to each other.
- God helps each family grow good fruit. How can you share with others what God is growing in your family garden? Examples: Tithe our time and money, invite people to eat in our home, or be kind to our neighbors.

**Optional ways** to continue your spiritual conversations this month:

## **Youth and older children's conversations:**

1. Discuss other families that each of you respects. What good fruit do you see in their family?
2. Look for good fruit in your own family this month.

**Our Theme Verse for Growing Families** - What does it mean to your family?

"But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18