

Time



Tangible item: calendar, watch/stopwatch, Bible, hourglass

A Thought: So, you plant a seed, cover it with soil, water it, provide it adequate light, then you ... wait. It takes *time* to germinate and grow. Some seeds may sprout within a couple days, but it may be months yet to harvest. When you hear the word 'time,' what comes to mind? Maybe that time flies by or just drags on. Do you think of time as seconds becoming minutes that make up days and stretch into months and years? Time can also be measured by phases of the moon that we see as the seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter; or as day, evening, and night. Guess what? Time is a gift from God. Before God created man, He created time, space, and seasons for us to occupy (see Genesis 1:14). Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 to be reminded that 'for everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.' So, what do you do with this precious gift you have been given? Do you sit and watch the plants grow? Or do you feel like you have just planted seeds and before you know it, it is time for harvest? Regardless of how you spend your time- whether you keep a tight schedule, enjoy leisure activities or just rest, keep your focus on Jesus. Do not be idle, but fill your time doing good, serving the Lord with gladness, no matter what season you are in. Spend time with God. Read Isaiah 40:31, we are told to wait on the Lord and our strength will be renewed. As we spend time with God in His word and devotion, our faith and trust in Him will grow. So set time aside to spend with the One who is above all time. It will be time well spent.

Reflection verse: <https://www.esv.org/Jb22.26%3BIs58.14%3BPp3.1%3BPp4.4>

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; <https://www.esv.org/Ps37.1>

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,

over the man who carries out evil devices! Psalm 37:4-7

Visual: Set a timer in front of you. As you flip it over and watch the sand fall, be still. Meditate on the Lord. Focus on Jesus and give Him your concerns, praise His blessings, draw strength from Him. Pray that you would use your time wisely in ways that are pleasing to God.

Prayer: Heavenly, gracious Father, keep me aware that time is your gift to me. Help me to be wise in the use of my time, spending time with you, serving you with a cheerful heart, and encouraging others. In your name, Amen.

Soil



Tangible item: Plastic fork "trowel", "soil", zip lock bag, small paper plate

A Thought: Soil, dirt, earth, dust, mud, whatever a person calls it, the stuff is messy! Sure, it is necessary and there are good and not so good soils. Some of this dirt will make lovely mud pies or grow beautiful flowers, but when tracked onto to a freshly mopped floor or settled on a newly washed vehicle, that same soil is not so welcome! When the rocks and sand make it impossible for a plant's roots to find nourishment the plant cannot thrive.

We are like the soil, sometimes we are good and sometimes not so much. When we allow our thoughts to become like rocky, hard dirt, we do not allow the Word of God to reach our roots. When the dust of our behavior floats around and coats those near us, the evidence of our baptism cannot be seen. When the muddy footprints of our sinful actions are tracked over the once clean landscape of our lives, our faith is not evident.

Yet, Jesus does not condemn us for our poor soil. He spreads the fertilizer of His Word, rakes the rocks, and mops the evidence of our sin with His sacraments, and our dirt is granted new life. We can now grow the good crops, the beautiful flowers, and the green lawns of faithful living while continuing to serve the Lord with gladness!

Reflection verse:

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?... 2 Corinthians

13:5 <https://www.esv.org/Jb22.26%3BIs58.14%3BPp3.1%3BPp4.4>

Visual: Pour your "dirt" on the plate. As you remove the "rocks" from it, think of the times when you have ignored God's word, when your behavior has harmed others, when your actions left a trail of muddy footprints. Now remember your baptism and how the blood of Jesus has washed you clean, how the Word of God replenishes you, and go grow some beautiful flowers in your life's garden!

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to always turn to Your Word and Sacraments to make my poor dirt into good soil so that I might be fruitful in Your kingdom. In Your Son's name, Amen.

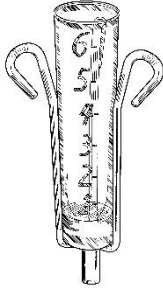
Water

Tangible element: plastic cup, rain gauge, washcloth

A thought: This spring we have been getting rain... lots of rain... and my garden (including the weeds) is loving it! That rain, as wonderful as it is, is plain water. This plain water is a necessary thing for physical life, but it is nothing compared to the waters of Holy Baptism. Plain water is great for quenching our thirst and helping plants grow. The waters of Baptism “work forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare”. The waters of Baptism don't help the weeds grow - like God, they only give good things. Martin Luther is quoted as saying, “when you wash your face, remember your Baptism”. What can you do to be more aware of the blessings received in Holy Baptism?

Reflection verse: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” Titus 3:5-8

Visual: List some ways water is a blessing in your life

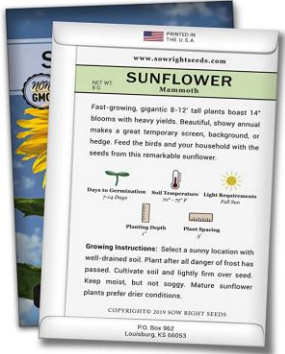


Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift of water, especially the waters of Baptism. Make me mindful of that washing with life-giving water & Your Word in my daily life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sunshine

Tangible element at station: Flashlight or lamp

A Thought: Recently I planted several packets of seeds in preparation for what will *hopefully* be a very fruitful yield in a few months. As I was reading over the different requirements for the things I bought (watermelons, pumpkins, ornamental corn, and wildflowers, in case you were curious!), I noticed the phrase “Full Sun.” This means that 6+ hours of direct sunlight will help my plants grow and bloom...and the more sunshine they get, the more they will grow and bloom to their maximum potential. What if we thought about our own lives and the time that we spend in and with the Son? The more time that we spend with Him, the more we can grow and bloom to our maximum potential! Just as plants are energized by and thrive in the Sun, so are we energized by and thrive in the Son, the ultimate source and sustainer of life!



Reflection Verse:

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalms 73:25-26

Visual: Just as sunflowers yearn for, desire, and track the Sun throughout the day, so should we yearn for, desire, and track the Son daily. In the lines of the Sun, write a concrete way that you can be more intentional about tracking the Son daily.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Help me to desire You more every day. Help me to be more intentional about soaking up time with You so that I can better know You and serve You. Thank You for being my portion forever. Amen.

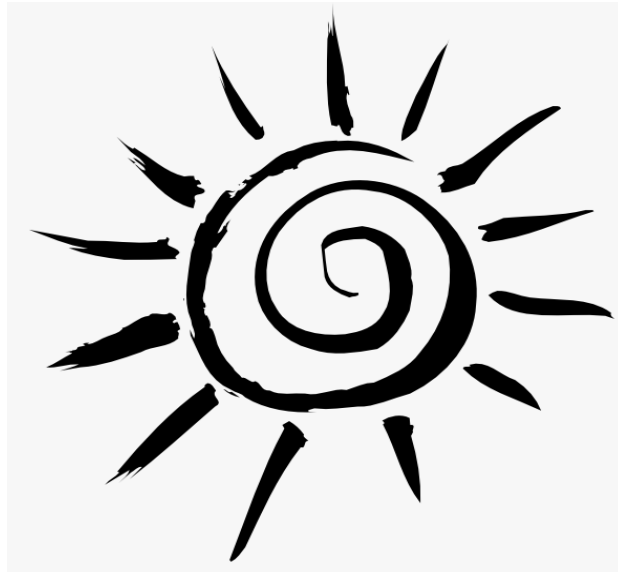
Seed

Tangible item: Packets or bags of seeds

A thought: Everything in life starts with a **seed**. ... And, every **seed** that is planted must be received by **faith**. When we sow a **seed**, put it in God's hands then watch God graciously and mercifully send the miracle that we need based on our **faith**. In the morning when I get up, one of the very first things I do is open up my Computer and look at my email. The first one I read is my daily Mustard Seed Devotion from LWML: food for the soul. Sign up for the Mustard Seed devotionals at <https://www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions>

A **seed** carries within itself new life. Paradoxically, it has to be buried before it can bring forth that new life; as a result, **seeds** and those who sow them are often used metaphorically in the **Bible** to convey ideas. The **seed** is faithful and reliable in doing what God meant it to do, when it is sown. The **spiritual seed** we are thinking about is faithful too. It will produce much fruit in due season, if we sow it. That is not the whole story however. A **seed**, to be faithful, must die when it is sown.

What is a spiritual seed? What does the seed represent? Answer: The **seed represents** a rich symbol of the process of living and dying. It is a complete circle of life. ... Traditional symbolic meaning of **seeds** include: Potential, Trust, Hope, Nourishment, Sacred, Earthiness, Initiation, Reproduction, Cycles, Time, Provision. Jesus later explains to his disciples that the **seed represents** the Gospel, the sower **represents** anyone who proclaims it, and the various soils **represent** people's responses to it. In one of the most widely known **Scriptures**,



Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, "Because you have so little **faith**. Truly I tell you, if you have **faith** like a **grain of mustard seed**, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Reflection: Trust in God now for a happy harvest later.
Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Psalm 126:5

Visual: The seed of the Word has been sown, falling on the good soil of "receptive souls," where it will "blossom in action" and bear the fruit of love and service in Jesus' Name.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, in worship You nourish me with Your Word and Your Holy Sacrament. When I leave the service, lead me to serve You by serving others. Amen.

Harvest



Tangible item: Seed packets, hymn 827

A Thought: Are you a missionary? Think about it... are you a missionary? If you answered no, then think again. What does a missionary do? They spread the love of Jesus and his promise of salvation to people near and far. You don't have to do this in a foreign country, it can be done anywhere. Like in

your own community, in Samaria, in Judea, and to the ends of the earth. This question about being a missionary was asked with great enthusiasm at the recent LWML National convention by Mission Central founder Gary Thies, who prays that the Lord would raise up 'not normal' people who would take the mission of bringing Jesus to the world.

In this prayer walk, we have seen how a seed that has been planted in fertile soil, watered and given appropriated light, will in time grow. But what happens then? Do you leave wheat in the field or grapes on the vine? No, they will just rot and die. Many plants need to be harvested to be eaten immediately, ground into flour, or fermented for wine.

Now think about how this relates to you. God has given you amazing gifts- whether it be servant leadership, service to others, prayer, worshiping through song, talent with numbers or technology. But these gifts don't amount to anything if you just keep them to yourself. We can use them not only for our vocation, but in service to the Lord. Plant them, let them grow, then be ready for harvest. Share your gifts your gifts with others and allow God send you to the mission field.

Reflection verse:

He who supplies a seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Visual: You will also find several pots with seed packets on the table. There are 7 different seed packets corresponding to different parts of the KS District LWML: Leadership/Executive Committee, Caring service, Christian Life, Communication, Gospel Outreach, Organizational Resources, and Special Focus Ministries. Use the prayer suggestions on each packet, then return them to the table.

Prayer: You will find a copy of hymn 827, "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling," on the back of this folder. As you read through all four verses, let them guide you through prayer to ask God to send you for his work.

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the master calls you;
Rich reward he offers free.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I. Send me, send me"?

2 If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus;
You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

3 If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,

Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

4 Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calls you,
"Here am I. Send me, send me!"

2021 KAOL

Prayer Walk

From Seed to Harvest

LWML KS District Christian Life
Committee