

Spiritual Lessons from Gardening

Hiro Kono

One of my hobbies that I enjoy in retirement is tending to the garden. I have built a couple of raised beds to grow herbs and vegetables, such as cucumbers, tomatoes, bell peppers, basil, and most recently, winter melon. Those winter melons have been difficult but I enjoy the challenge just to see how many will produce each season! My daily routine is I go out to the yard in the mornings to see if the plants need water, weeding, adjusting, or any other attention.

Like many gardeners, I enjoy the period spent in the garden as it allows for a quiet, relaxing time where you can step away from concerns that you may have that day or better yet, refocus on God's abundant offerings and blessings which are found through our thoughts and prayers with our Father.

In Genesis 2:8, it says *"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed."*

A good reflection topic would be to ask *"Why did God place us in the Garden of Eden?"* There must be a reason.

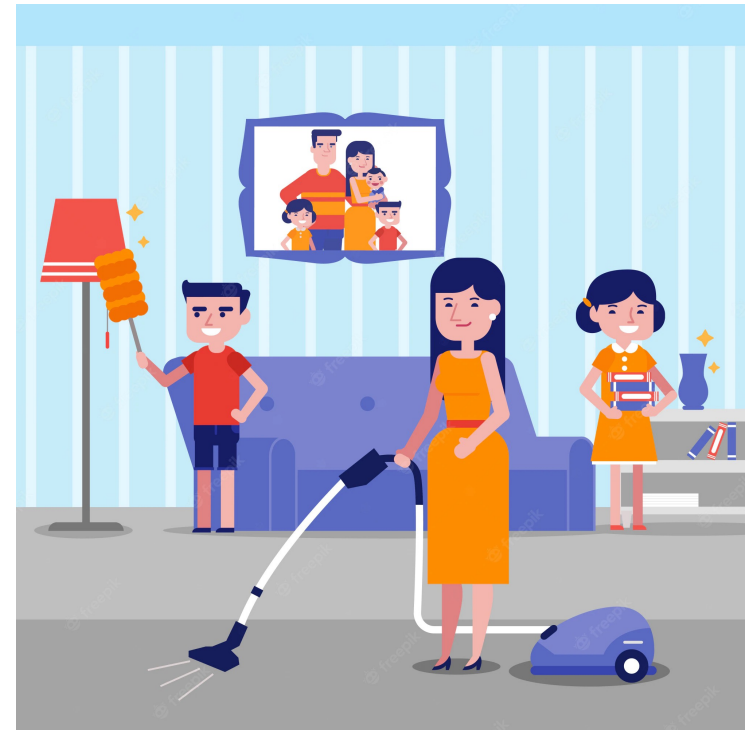
In order for the plants to thrive and grow, they need good, fertile soil. Just like plants need good soil, so does our faith need God's Word (Holy Spirit) to grow strong. Weeds will sprout in the garden just like daily issues will pop up in our lives. If you try pulling the weeds out by yourself with just your fingers, you will remove the top portion, but the weed will re-emerge again because the root has remained. We need the Holy Spirit to help us with our daily issues and remove the root cause. This also grows our faith. We must remain strong in our faith and abide by God's Word to thrive and grow in our relationship with Him.

Isaiah 58:11 says *"And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."*



Welcome to Journey!

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Clean House

Order of Service

May 28th, 2023

Welcome & Call To WorshipDevin
 Worship.....Kyle & Congregation
 Sermon.....**Clean House** Christian
 Song of ResponseKyle & Congregation
 BenedictionEwin

Ways to get involved at Journey:

Today, Basketball Ministry (1–3pm, MPR): email Wesley for details.

Today, Deadline for Forest Home Youth Retreat, sign up soon before rates go up! More info available through Christian, christian@journeyec.org.

JEC GRADS: We will be honoring JEC graduating/promoted students. Email wesleylin91@gmail.com and/or davemclen50@msn.com with your name, photo, fave bible verse, school graduating from, next school, and if applicable: major and degree, or area of employment.

6/11: Grad Banquet (12pm, MPR). All grads and youth are welcome to attend. Food and drinks will be provided. RSVP to Sammie, sarusu4@gmail.com.

Email **announcements** or **photos** to bulletin@journeyec.org by Sunday, 6pm.
Email bulletin@journeyec.org if you'd like this bulletin emailed to you.

Tithes & Offerings. Help with Journey's ministries:

–Offering box (rear sanctuary wall)

–JourneyEC.org/donate

–Vanco App (search: Journey Evangelical Church, Westminster)



Many thanks to our Easter Luncheon crew!

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Nehemiah 13:1-14 • Christian Lissner

Take the Word of God seriously

Choose integrity over complacency

Faithfully serve and give to the Lord

Reflections, discussion questions, application:

Journey's Servant Leaders:

Deacons

Allie Wong
 Anne Chou
 Dave McLendon
 Joshua Cain
 Pat Leung
 Paulah Wong
 Teresa Jue
 Wesley Lin

Elders

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music
 Devin Wong—GO Team, Website
 Hiro Kono—Congregation Dev., Pastoral Care, Women
 Peter Leung—Children, Welcome
 Phil Jen Kin—Facilities, Chinese, Security, Personnel
 Rick Chou—Nominations, Multimedia, Small Groups
 Ron Jue—Growth & Legacy, Deacons Liaison, CLT Chair
 Victor Wong—Campus, Finance, Hospitality, SERVE, Vietnamese

Staff

Ted Kau—Senior Pastor
 Paul Eng—Chinese Pastor
 Roger Yee—Business Administrator
 Ewin Grace—Small Group Development Pastor
 Christian Lissner—Asst. Minister (Youth, Worship)