



The Farmer and the Seeds

By Nancy Shonamon, Christian School Representative

Every day, a farmer trudged across the field to tend to his garden. He had packed his lunch and had his wheelbarrow full of the tools he would need. The sun was slowly rising over the horizon. The farmer had a discouraged look on his face. It had been many days since he had planted the seeds in the garden. Each morning, he would rise to tend the tiny plants emerging from the soil. He labored to fight off weeds, pests, and other factors that endlessly tried to interfere with his work of nurturing the tender plants. The farmer watered, fertilized, and tended every plant to the best of his ability. He was tired and felt very alone.

Will the plants reach maturity? Are my efforts enough? Is the harvest going to be plentiful this year? Why did I ever want to become a farmer? His patience was waning. The tools he used daily were getting old and worn. Yet, each morning, the tender plants before him seemed to grow just a little bit at a time. He could not help wondering if his efforts would be enough. Will he run out of time before the growing season ends? Will he need to adjust everything to start over with a new batch of seeds.

The Task of Educators (Gardeners)

As educators, we receive the batch of seeds assigned to us each year. We have little to no choice of what seeds we receive. In the batch will be some watermelons, carrots, corn, potatoes, and an onion or two. Daily, we put on our work gloves, pack our tools, and head off to our classroom gardens. We water. We nurture. We fight off dynamics that hinder the growth of each young plant. As the season progresses, we wonder if there will be enough time before the “harvest day” to pour everything needed into each unique plant. Can we meet their needs?

The human-being seeds assigned to our rosters each year are no mistake. The master Gardener has perfectly designed each of the seeds carefully so it would sprout and grow to the person's full potential. Educators have the honorable role of providing a safe place, allowing each one to receive the nurturing treatment needed to thrive. Our vision and respect for each young plant's uniqueness plays a dynamic role in the growth and development throughout a given season. Yes, there will be a lot of demanding work until the harvest day comes.

Wise gardeners recognize two things: the key role of patience throughout the season and the fact that each plant will yield more at the end of the season than in the earlier stages. Our efforts will be enough as we keep in mind the vision the master Gardener has cast for each of the seeds in this season.

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