**A Farmer in God's Harvest**

**Overview**

A bountiful harvest is simply the visible result of a farmer's earlier duties performed faithfully. As laborers for God, we too, must work to see an abundant harvest. In this lesson, we examine some of the farmer's tasks and relate them to our responsibilities as God's husbandmen.

**Lesson Theme**

A farmer's job is not easy, but it is rewarding! As God's harvest field laborers, we must be willing to prepare the ground, obedient to plant the seed and prune the crops, and ultimately, diligent to possess the harvest that the Lord gives.

**Lesson Objectives**

At the conclusion of the lesson, each student should:

* + Examine their life for anything that would hinder a great harvest.
	+ Understand the importance of faithfully spending time in God's Word for conviction and growth.
	+ Be determined to be actively involved in gathering God's harvest.

**Teaching Outline**

The Farmer Prepares

Clearing

Plowing

T

he Farmer Plants

Planting the seed

Pruning the crops

The Farmer Possesses

The time to harvest is now

The time of harvest brings rejoicing

**Luke 13:6-9** - And He *began* telling this parable: “A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer;and if it bears fruit next year, *fine*; but if not, cut it down.’”

**Isaiah 5:2** He dug it all around, removed its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine.

**2 KINGS 18:4**

He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.

**JEREMIAH 4:3** For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, “Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns.

**Hosea 10:12**Sow with a view to righteousness, Reap in accordance with kindness; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

Hebrews 4:12 "the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

**1 PETER 1:23**You have been reborn—not from seed that eventually dies but from seed that is eternal—through the word of God that lives and endures forever.

Haggai 2:19 *"Is the seed left unplanted in the storage barn?"*

Luke 8:5-8 *''A sower went out to sow his seed."*

Ecclesiastes 11:4 *"*He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:6**I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

the seed that *"fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them"* (Matthew 13:7).

Jesus further explained how the seed is choked in our lives. And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)

**JOHN 15:1-3** “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**JOHN 4:35-38**

Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this *case* the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”

**PROVERBS 13:19** *The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul.*

1 **CORINTHIANS 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

**GALATIANS 6:9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

**Study Questions**

1. Why does the farmer need to prepare the ground by clearing and plowing it before planting?
2. Why did Hezekiah destroy the brazen serpent God had previously commanded Moses to make? What does this serpent represent in our lives?
3. What would happen if a farmer simply walked away from the fields after planting and didn't return until harvest?
4. Why is the harvest season urgent?
5. When was the last time God spoke to you through His Word to reveal sin that needed to be removed from your life? Are you faithful to daily spend time in God's Word?
6. Is planting the seed of God's Word bysharing the Gospel with others a regular part of your life? If not, what adjustments do you need to make to your schedule to make this a priority?
7. Who is God laying on your heart that you could share the Gospel with this week? (Note: share these names with each other, and pray for these people throughout the week. Next week ask each other how the Lord worked.)
8. Of the three jobs of a farmer we looked at in this lesson-preparing, planting, and possessing-where do you need to start?

**Memory Verse**

The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

(2 TIMOTHY 2:6)