



My Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for trusting me to take care of Your world and all the things in it . . . including me! I'll do my best for You because I love You. Amen.



Library

■ " 'Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth' " (**Genesis 1:28**).

LETTER CODE KEY

1A	2B	3C	4D	5E	6F	7G
8H	9I	10J	11K	12L	13M	14N
15O	16P	17Q	18R	19S	20T	21U
22V	23W	24X	25Y	26Z		



My Friend Ellen Wrote

"Those whom the Lord has made stewards of His means must be faithful to their trust, for God holds them responsible" (Letter 36, 1897).

The word *means* is the same as *stuff* or *possessions*. God wants us to faithfully take care of His stuff!

Penny for
Your thoughts

What are some ways you can help take care of God's "stuff"?

Bible Adventures for Young Readers



My Beautiful Yard

I Can Read Text

"The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord. The world and all its people belong to him." —Psalm 24:1

My Story

I'd like to show you around my yard.

Now, my yard isn't exactly a national park. People don't come and spend their vacations by the garden or pitch their tent beside the bird feeder. Most people just drive by our house and don't even give my yard a second look. But I love it anyway because I'm working with my Friend, Jesus, to keep it beautiful as I enjoy every corner. Let me show you around.

First, this is my favorite tree.



I don't know how to make it grow, but I can sit on its strong branches and watch the birds building their nests. I can't make leaves appear in the spring, but I can spend the summer resting in their wonderful shade. See what I mean? It's my tree, but it's God's tree too!

Notice the soft, green grass covering my yard.

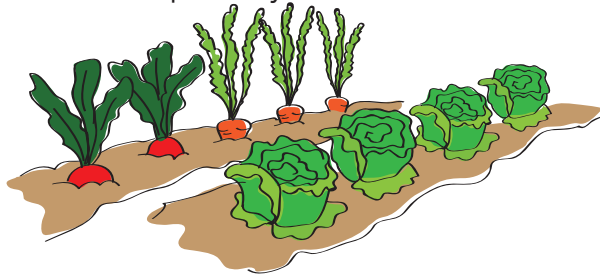


My dad and I planted this grass a couple years ago when we moved into our house. We watered it faithfully and added fertilizer to help it grow thick and strong. But we didn't make it grow. We didn't tell it to be green instead of pink or yellow. God did that.

Here's my mom's vegetable garden.

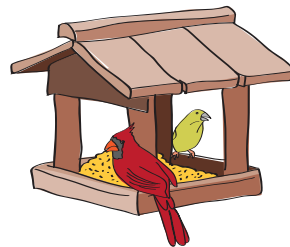
There's delicious food growing in here—food that God created for us to eat.

There are tomatoes, potatoes, squash, carrots, spinach, and green beans getting ready for our dinner table. Yum! But, we only planted seeds. God made them grow into delicious food.



And finally, this is my bird feeder.

All year long I make sure there are sunflower seeds and other goodies here for the birds to eat. Did I make the birds? No. Did I teach them how to fly? No. Did I give them their beautiful colors? No. God did all that.



So, here's the deal. God creates life, and I take care of it. I plant seeds, and God makes them grow. We work together to make my yard wonderful.

I learned a new word that says what I do for God. I'm His *steward*. That means "manager" or "caretaker." I also learned in church that one of the things that God created—one of the things **He wants me to take very special care of—is ME.**



I'm not only God's steward of the world and everything in it, I'm also His steward of my body and my mind. So, I make sure I eat good food, get plenty of fun exercise, and make my brain strong by learning new things in school. God made me. I take care of me. We're partners.

God wants you to be a steward too.

My Bible Adventure

After God created this world, He told Adam and Eve to do something for Him.

Read this Bible text in the LIBRARY and then add the missing words below.

"Fill the _____ and be its _____. _____ over the _____ in the _____ and over the _____ in the _____. Rule over every _____ that _____ on the _____" **(Genesis 1:28).**

To whom does the world belong? You? Your parents? Your country leaders? Find out by uncovering the letters of this text in the **LETTER CODE KEY** that's hiding in the **LIBRARY**. Happy hunting!

"20__ 8__ 5__ 5__ 1__ 18__ 20__
8__ 1__ 14__ 4__ 5__ 22__ 5__
18__ 25__ 20__ 8__ 9__ 14__ 7__
15__ 14__ 9__ 20__ 2__ 5__ 12__
15__ 14__ 7__ 20__ 15__ 20__
8__ 5__ 12__ 15__ 18__ 4__"

(1 Corinthians 10:26).

Fun Facts THE EARTH

- Land is 29% of earth's surface; that's 57,268,900 square miles.*
- Earth orbits the sun at 66,700 mph.
- Earth's diameter is almost 8,000 miles.

PUMPKIN: Earth is pumpkin-shaped and is getting fatter in the middle as mountain glaciers melt.

