

Bible adventures

for young readers

21



God
loves me
28 ways



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

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

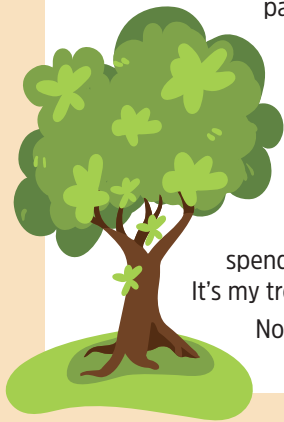


STORY TIME

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.

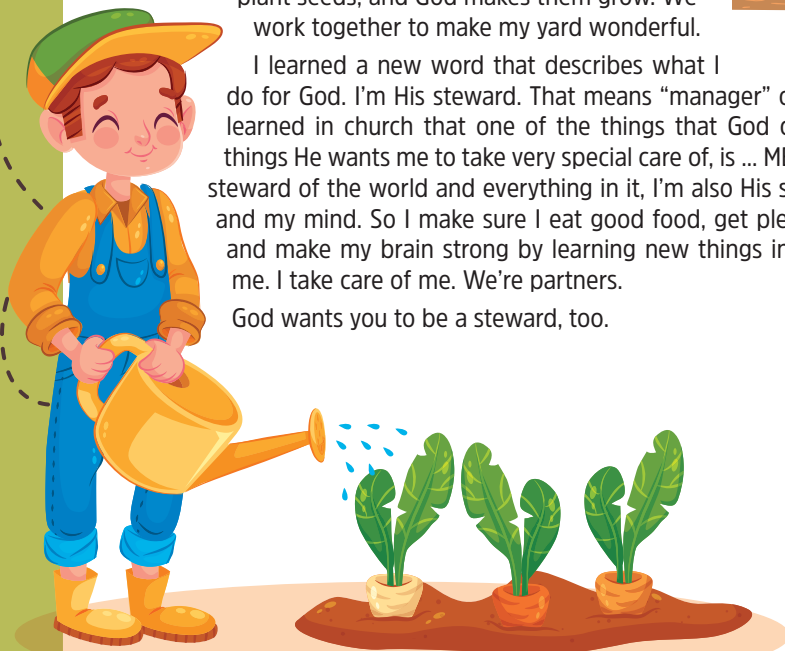
And finally, this is my bird feeder. All year long I make sure there are sunflower seeds and other goodies here for the birds to eat. Did I make the birds? No. Did I teach them how to fly? No. Did I give them their beautiful colors? No. God did all that.



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 describes 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 makes up 29% of earth's surface; that's 57,268,900 square miles.*
- Earth is pumpkin-shaped and is getting fatter in the middle as mountain glaciers melt.

* Source: <http://www.gkpet.com/factsworld.html>



MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for creating me and for showing me what I need to be healthy. I'm going to keep my body temple a place where You will want to live. I love You, Jesus. Amen.



LIBRARY

- “God said, ‘Let there be light!’ ” (Genesis 1:3).
- “God made the air to divide the water in two” (Genesis 1:7).
- “God said, ‘Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear.’ ... Then God said, ‘Let the earth produce plants’ ” (Genesis 1:9, 11).
- “God made the two large lights” (Genesis 1:16).
- “God said, ‘Let the water be filled with living things. And let birds fly in the air above the earth’ ” (Genesis 1:20).
- “Then God said, ‘Let the earth be filled with animals.’ ... [And then He also] created human beings in his image” (Genesis 1:24, 27).
- “On the seventh day [God] rested from all his work” (Genesis 2:2).



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“God designs that the body shall be a temple for his Spirit. How solemn then is the responsibility resting on every soul. If we defile our bodies, we are doing harm not only to ourselves, but to many others” (*Review and Herald*, Nov. 6, 1900).

The word defile means “to make ourselves sick by our own unhealthy choices.”

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What are some of your favorite things to eat? Are they healthy or harmful for your body?

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