

# IT'S GOOD TO WATER THE SEED

## SCRIPTURE:

*What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. (1 Corinthians 3: 5-7)*

## MATERIALS LIST:

(1) sprinkler

## MAIN MESSAGE:

In order for an apple tree to grow and produce its own fruit, there must be water available to the seed. We understand this in the world of plants, but what about when it comes to the Gospel? As Paul watered, we need to be those who are ready to be sprinklers.

## SONG: "I Love to Tell the Story"

## LESSON:

Have you ever tried to get grass to grow in the South? I have, and it's not easy. The soil in some areas is so compact that you could use your backyard for a dirt racing track, and some I'm sure have tried. Grass then is a very important aspect of your home and property as it prevents mud slides and nasty, standing water that kids love to use as their own personal swimming pools. However, as important as that grass is, there's a process to having a yard that is beautiful and established.

After the soil has been prepared, leveled, and de-cluttered of rocks and clumps of old weeds, the fun begins. With the John Deere hat on the head, many weekend warriors carefully walk behind the spreader, casting the precious seed on the ground. Left unattended, most of the seed will either wash away or will be burned up by the heat of the sun. Some might be eaten by birds, and a very little portion will begin to sprout. That's why the next step of scattering straw over the planted area is crucial. The cover allows protection from the heat, the birds, and the heavy rains that can spring up.

One of the things the yard professionals at various lawn and garden stores will tell you is that once the seed is down and covered, you have to water it a lot and regularly. That's why when I planted my backyard with grass, I purchased 3 sprinklers that could be placed throughout the yard. I made sure to get the good ones too, the ones that would cover the most area and could sustain the conditions of being pressed into the ground and left out in the elements. I'm glad I did because for the first few weeks, we had to water that yard morning and evening. It seemed all I was doing was watching the clock so I would know when to go outside to move the sprinklers so that every single seed that was sown would have an opportunity to absorb the precious water and grow.

Making the spiritual application, in the Scripture for this lesson, we learn that it's important to plant the seed - the Gospel; however, we also see the great value in watering that message once it's been planted in the hearts and minds of people. As a family, how do we do this? What are some ways we water the Gospel (notice I didn't say water-down the Gospel)? One way might be to continue to teach those who've received the Gospel. Another avenue would be to be living examples of what the Scriptures teach - show by our lives the difference the Gospel makes. What other ways are there? Kindness, gentleness, patience, self-control and others are all aspects of what we become, and these show themselves in our everyday life. We must become "sprinklers" for the Kingdom.

**PRAYER:** Use our family as "sprinklers" when it comes to helping the Seed grow in the hearts of others.