My Beautiful Yard

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.

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.

"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).

"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!

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
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.

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.