



DIVING INTO THE IMAGES

EPISODE 6

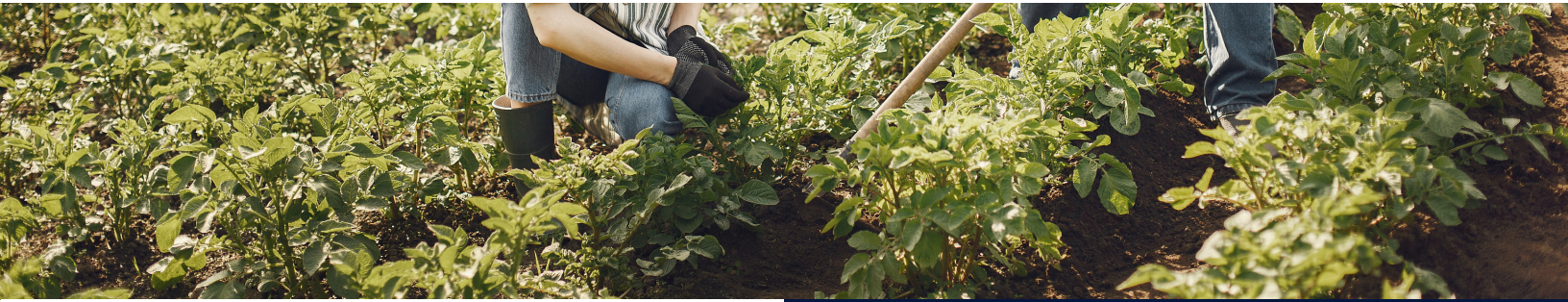


IMAGE: GARDENER

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . . The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:8–9, 15 NIV

GARDENERS CULTIVATE

God “leaves room” for us to complete the project.

[Humanity does] not leave the land as it is. They rearrange it in order to make it most fruitful, to draw the potentialities for growth and development out of the soil. They dig up the ground and rearrange it with a goal in mind: to rearrange the raw material of the garden so that it produces food, flowers, and beauty. And that is the pattern for all work.

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Timothy Keller

GARDENERS CARE

Something or someone has been entrusted to your care.

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden as its gardener, to tend and care for it.

Genesis 2:15, The Living Bible

GARDENERS DISCOVER

We don’t know in advance what will happen; we have to adapt.

This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

Mark 4:26–27 NIV

GARDENERS WAIT

We can trust that God is working while we do our part with patience.

All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.

Mark 4:28–29 NIV

JESUS AS THE GARDENER

Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

John 20:15–16 NIV

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Where do I have room for creativity in my work projects? How can I draw out the potentialities of the soil of my work?

How can I be trustworthy with what I’ve been entrusted with?

Am I tempted to be an architect who controls everything instead of a gardener who discovers and adapts to the unanticipated?

Who or what can I be patient with in my work this week?

How can I welcome Jesus as the gardener of my soul?