

Good Parents tell children what not to do to keep them safe. Great Parents help them find things to do, things like: A TIRE GARDEN.

Nothing in all of creation has quite the power or the mystery of a seed. If put in a steel cylinder with water they can explode the steel. But more than the power is the mystery. Two seeds which seem identical can grow into completely different things, a huge sequoia or a tiny flower. Truly God does know the plans he has for the seeds and for us. God's special love of seeds is revealed when he calls his word a seed...a seed that we must plant in our heart.

Perhaps the greatest thing about seeds is the planting and the harvest. "If you want to pick flowers, you have to plant seeds." If you want good things to come back to you **you** must plant them in the lives of those around you. It is a principle every child should have in his heart: the best protection possible for a "poor me" or victim attitude. All you need to get started is an old tire, two small or one large bag of potting soil and some seeds.

Put the tire in a sunny location and if possible spade up the soil underneath. Fill it with the potting soil, plant your seeds and water it thoroughly. For beginning gardeners the easiest seeds are bush squash or zucchini... for flowers try sunflower or if you like butterflies Tithonia. If your seeds do not come up buy a tomato or pepper plant from the store, add a few flowers and you have a beautiful child size garden. Explain to your children that it is God who makes seeds grow, but it is up to each one of us to do the planting. Pray that his lesson of planting and harvest, of doing your best to love others is not lost. Pray that the lesson of INVESTING your time and labor in THE FUTURE is remembered. Pray also for the lesson of patience AND perseverance that it becomes a part of your child's character.

To make the lesson even more lasting find a paper plate and using a magic marker write in the center: "If you want to pick flowers, you have to plant seeds." Then glue some beans, peas, etc. around the edges. Any child can get depressed, especially the children of divorce. The way out can be their own little tire garden.