

WEED AND FEED!

SCRIPTURE:

*Remove the false way from me, and graciously grant me Your law.
I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.
I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame!
I shall run the way of Your commandments, for You will enlarge my heart (Psalm 119: 29-32).*

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Weed & Feed
lawn fertilizer

SONG: "Purify Me, Lord"

MAIN MESSAGE:

If there are weeds in your yard, it won't be long until they will take over the whole yard. The weeds must die. However, when you kill them the grass must be encouraged to grow or another weed will come and fill the spot. The same is true with our lives. Sin must be removed, but righteousness must take over the void.

LESSON:

I enjoy working in the yard and the flower beds at home. One thing is for sure, weeds are my enemy! I hate them. They annoy me and mock my work. So I love it when I can defeat them by killing them. It takes a lot of work. Sometimes I spray them with weed killer and sometimes I pull them by hand. For my lawn I use a good quality weed and feed mixture. The idea is to kill the weeds in the yard AND fertilize the grass. Here's a fact; if you only kill out the weeds in your yard and leave a bare spot, more weeds will inevitably come back with a vengeance! If you spray Round-Up (herbicide) on a crop of weeds in your yard, those weeds will die, however that bare spot will fill right back up with a new crop of weeds!

David said in Psalm 119:29-32, "Remove the false way from me...for You will enlarge my heart." When our families approach God and His Word, we should ask for the very same thing. For God to remove everything bad (weeds) and enlarge our hearts (fertilize the grass). It's not enough to just remove sin. We must grow in righteousness (doing right by God)! Paul told the church at Colossae, to "put to death" angry, wrath, etc. and "put on" tender mercies, kindness, etc. (Colossians 3:8-14).

The old saying, "Garbage in, garbage out" is correct. Therefore, the filth of sin needs to be removed from our hearts. However, we must add to it. "Treasure in, treasure out!" Christ-likeness must be grown in our hearts so that the garbage does not come back. That's why new Christians need to be taught, not only how to break old habits and addictions, but also how to start and maintain godly habits! These are habits like worship, service, prayer, and Bible study that must be grown and nurtured within the heart of the new Christian.

PRAYER: Father, we ask you to remove the bad in our lives and replace it with the good!