

Inclusion Seeds: a teacher devotional

Investigating: Seeds/ Individualized Education/ Special Education- Inclusion

1 Corinthians 7:24

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is **called**, therein abide with God.

Matthew 13:3-9 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9He who has ears, let him hear."

Jesus told many parables relating to farming and planting seeds. In these parables He often made mention of sowing seeds in good soil. Botanists have discovered that different types of seeds require different types of conditions for optimal growth, even among like species.

Just as the gardener nourishes each particular seed so that it becomes a healthy grown-up plant to live out its purpose that it was created for in the most abundant way, so is the teacher's job in dealing with little minds. "The future of society is indexed by the youth of today. In them we see the future teachers and lawmakers and judges, the leaders and the people, that determine the character and destiny of the nation. How important, then, the mission of those who are to form the habits and influence the lives of the rising generation. To deal with minds is the greatest work ever committed to men." MCP p.4. How beautiful the garden becomes when the gardener pays attention to the particularly different needs of each plant beginning at its seed needs. Just as a good gardener studies and becomes an expert at what seeds to plant when and in which kind of soil, as well as the right amount and types of nourishment needed for each one, educators must study their students and place them in the proper place where they will find the things they need to flourish. Mrs. White reminds us "many apparently unpromising youth are richly endowed with talents that are put to no use. Their faculties lie hidden because of a lack of discernment on the part of their educators. In many a boy or girl outwardly as unattractive as a rough-hewn stone, may be found precious material that will stand the test of heat and storm and pressure. The true educator, keeping in view what his pupils may become, will recognize the value of the material upon which he is working. He will take a personal interest in each pupil and will seek to develop all his powers." MCP p.232 Just as Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught His pupils with sympathy, faith, and love; we too through His guidance, can bring out God's design in each of our students. He was able to see what His pupils may become, and believed in their ability to live out God's design in their lives. He encouraged them and filled them with hope and understanding. He met them where they were. Where God guides He provides. To those in which He has called to the ministry of teaching, He will impart the ability to understand each student. Just as Solomon asked for discernment in considering judgment, our God wants

us to ask for guidance in dealing with His little ones, His seeds in the Kingdom's Nursery Garden.

"Father, please show me Your plans for each of the children you have entrusted into my care. Show me what makes them tick, and what kind of soil each little seed needs. Help me to add just the right amount of sunshine and water. Guide me as I work with Your precious children, Lord, helping them to become the person You created them to be. Amen"

James 1:5-7 (King James Version) 5If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

This devotion is taken from the following article and can be read at <http://circle.adventist.org/> - *Special Education Metaphor Number 2: Two Gardeners* By Janine Freed

Psalm 139:14

I will praise thee; for I am **fearfully** and **wonderfully made**: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

[Psalm 139:13-15](#) (in Context) [Psalm 139](#) (Whole Chapter)

1 Corinthians 7:24

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is **called**, therein abide with God.

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are **called**,

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