## **READ GENESIS 2:15**

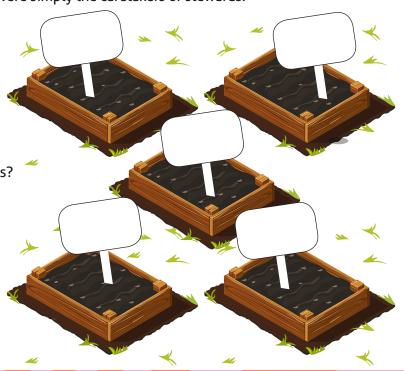
DAY 1

In the beginning, there was nothing except God. The universe was one big empty space. And then God created the heavens and the earth. God made Adam and Eve and gave them the job of caring for His creation. They weren't the creators. They were simply the caretakers or stewards.

Stewardship is taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. Adam and Eve knew that the Garden didn't exist because of them. The Garden existed for them to take care of. They knew from the start that everything belonged to God.

If you could plant a garden what would you grow? Flowers? Strawberries? Peppers? Tomatoes? Fill in the signs to show what plants are growing in each row.

**THANK** God for creating a beautiful place to live and care for.



## **READ PSALM 24:1**

DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper. Your challenge is to set a timer and write down as many things as you can that you would find in a forest in 60 seconds. Ready? Go!

What if you were a scientist given the task of moving to a remote forest that had never been inhabited before? What if your job was to identify every single living thing in that forest? It would take a LIFETIME to complete a task like that. And that's just ONE forest.

You could repeat this 60-second list with a jungle, or a river, or an ocean. And sure, you might be able to come up with a pretty long list. But you would never be able to name every single thing within those habitats. But guess what? God could! He created everything—from the tiniest ant to the tallest redwood tree. It ALL belongs to God. The earth IS the Lord's and everything in it. That's why we should take care of the earth. Because it doesn't really belong to us. Remember, everything belongs to God.

**ASK** God to help you care for the earth as a steward, remembering that it all belongs to Him.

## **READ PSALM 23:1**

DAY 3

DAY 4

Sheep have a herd mentality. If one sheep runs off a cliff, the others will follow right behind, unaware of the danger ahead. Sheep are also defenseless. They don't come armed with sharp claws or pointy teeth or even fast legs to help them against a predator. If a lion comes at night, without someone or something to protect them, the herd is doomed. Sheep are dependent upon a shepherd to protect and provide for them.

Just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep, God promises to care for us. He will give us everything we need. Name some things in the space below that God has given you.

**LOOK** for ways to trust God knowing that everything belongs to Him.

## READ JOHN 3:27

Does your mom ever put your name inside your stuff? That's so if something gets lost, it can be returned. But you might be tempted to think that because your name is on something, that it belongs to you. But the stuff you think you "own" is really just on loan.

Everything belongs to God. God wants you to take care of the things He's given you because all of it is on loan from Him. You are the receiver and the caretaker. You are not the creator.

Find something like your backpack or jacket that has your name on the inside. With that item in your hand, pray the prayer below:

"Dear God, thank you for reminding me that everything—including this \_\_\_\_\_\_—really belongs to you. Thank you for all you've done to show your love and for all the ways you provide for us. Help me to take care of everything because it all belongs to you. In Jesus' name. Amen."

**KNOW** that God loves it when we remember that everything belongs to Him

