

Lenten Devotional Suggestions.

Our theme this year is “A Time to grow: Lenten lessons from the Garden to the Table”

Provide a short scripture reading that is inspirational to you. (this can be based on your devotional topic or simply a verse that connects with you)

Write a 200-300 word devotional that shares a message of *faith and inspiration*.

Devotional Questions (choose one):

- Share a time you grew in your faith. What happened? What did you learn?
- Share a story about learning how to garden. What happened? How might it connect with your own faith story?
- Why is caring for the environment important to your faith? What do you do to care for the environment?
- How do you organize your garden? Why is it important to you? What is important about “order” in your personal faith?
- How have you experienced “newness of life” in your faith? What happened? What change for you?
- Any other story about what grows your faith life.

Offer a short (1-2 sentence) closing prayer.

EXAMPLE:

Hosea 14.7:

They shall again live beneath my shadow,
they shall flourish as a garden;*
they shall blossom like the vine,
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.*

All my aunts were theologians. My aunt Sissy said to me one day, “I think God feels about us just the way I feel about my cabbages: God just wants us to grow”

That thought greatly expanded my idea of God. Not judgmental, but loving: God just wants us to grow. Not restricting, but expanding: God just wants us to grow.

I find that the older I get, the more I am inclined to rely upon things to remain the same. Change takes effort. But growth cannot happen without change. And God wants us to grow. So especially in this Lenten season, I will try to embrace growth. I also understand that part of my job in building the kingdom of God here on earth is to in some small way help others to grow. Not by giving them my view of God, the universe and everything, but by encouraging them on that journey.

We can all grow together.

Prayer:

Ever-changing, never-changing God, lead us out of our comfort and into growth. Give us courage in this journey, and enough extra strength to encourage each other on this mission.

Amen. ~ Katie Baird