



The Garden of Blessings



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One sunny afternoon, Emma walked into her grandmother's backyard garden. The garden was Emma's favorite place—flowers of every color bloomed there, and the soft sound of a bubbling fountain made everything feel peaceful. But today, Emma noticed something new.

"Grandma," she said, pointing to a small patch of dirt with tiny green sprouts poking through, "what are you growing there?"

Grandma knelt beside her. "That's my Garden of Blessings," she said with a twinkle in her eye.

Emma looked puzzled. "A Garden of Blessings? What does that mean?"

Grandma smiled and handed Emma a watering can. "Each of these sprouts reminds me of something Jesus taught us in the Beatitudes. As they grow, they remind me of the blessings we receive when we live the way Jesus wants us to."

"Like what?" Emma asked, her curiosity growing.

Grandma pointed to the first little sprout. "This one reminds me of 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' It's about being humble and remembering we always need God's help, no matter how big or strong we feel."

Emma nodded and watered the sprout carefully.

Next, Grandma pointed to a sprout with soft, delicate leaves. "This one is for 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' It's about knowing God is with us when we're sad and that He can bring us peace."

Emma thought about the time she lost her favorite toy and how Grandma had comforted her. "I think I understand that one," she said.

They moved to another sprout, standing tall and straight. "This one reminds me of 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.' Being meek means being gentle and kind, not pushing others around."

Emma smiled. "Like when I let my little brother play with my toys even though I really wanted to."

"Exactly," Grandma said, laughing.

As they moved through the garden, Grandma explained the other blessings: showing mercy to others, having a pure heart, working for peace, and staying strong even when doing the right thing is hard.

When they finished watering, Emma looked up at her grandmother. "But, Grandma, what happens if one of these sprouts doesn't grow?"

Grandma patted Emma's shoulder. "Sometimes it takes time, Emma. Just like we keep watering and caring for the garden, we keep trying to live the way Jesus taught us. The blessings will grow in our hearts little by little."

Emma smiled as she stood back and looked at the garden. It wasn't big or fancy yet, but it was full of promise. And as the sunlight warmed her face, she decided she wanted to grow a Garden of Blessings in her heart too.

A children's story based on the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, [Luke 6:17, 20-26](#).



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