



***RCC Phoenix – 6.14.20 – 4H – HABITAT (Week 5)***

The final “H” of this series is \_\_\_\_\_ which is our environment.

We will look into 3 areas of our Habitat we need to remove weeds from.

1. The Habitat We Are \_\_\_\_\_ In

None of the 4H teams had a say in the location of their home garden. The lots were numbered and assigned based on the decision from the leadership. This meant that the areas of land were unique in their location, surroundings and challenges.

Different teams had different \_\_\_\_\_ to navigate.

Some teams were closer to trees that provided shade. Some teams were near the edge of the property and closer to bushes from the adjoining property. Some teams dealt with insects (like ant hills) that were in the land before they arrived.

The challenges each team faced were not of their own doing. Those challenges were merely a result of their \_\_\_\_\_.

Before we curse our placement, loathe our physical traits or despise the varied and uncontrollable circumstances of our life we must realize something important.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ and ultimately in control of the universe. **(Isaiah 46:10)**

He has strategically placed us in our unique position for His \_\_\_\_\_.

God is the “Master Gardener.” He knows how to cause growth anywhere, regardless of the starting condition of the habitat.

Believing in Christ and Following the Lord’s commands doesn’t guarantee us nothing terrible will happen to us. It does guarantee the Master Gardener will be present to help us navigate the challenges of our environment.

2. The Habitat We \_\_\_\_\_

The home garden areas of the 4H program were divided into sections by rope but there was no \_\_\_\_\_ in between them.

In addition to eliminating our own weeds, we also had to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the other teams around us and if they were caring for their land.

If the teams next to us weren't removing the weeds from their land, there was a good possibility the weeds would \_\_\_\_\_ to our garden.

It mattered who we were \_\_\_\_\_ to.

In a similar way, it matters which relationships we choose to surround ourselves with.

**1 Corinthians 15:33 NLT** - "...bad company corrupts good character."

How do we know if those surrounding us will have a destructive impact on our habitat?

#### 5 Facts About Weeds

- Weeds have no redeeming \_\_\_\_\_.
- Weeds grow more \_\_\_\_\_ than plants designed to produce fruit.
- Weeds are often \_\_\_\_\_.
- Invasive weeds compete for \_\_\_\_\_ and can take over areas \_\_\_\_\_ of their natural habitat.
- Weeds grow so quickly they often \_\_\_\_\_ single nutrients leaving an imbalance causing \_\_\_\_\_ growth in the surviving produce plants.

Any "friend" who encourages us to live in a way that has no redeeming value, promotes the fastest route to fleshly satisfaction, participates in acts that are detrimental, encourages ideas that push out the space for the Gospel, starve our relationship with God and cause abnormal growth, fits the description of a relationship we may need change.

#### **Galatians 5:19-23 NLT**

"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

#### **Hebrews 11:24-26 NLT**

"It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of *enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin*. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward."

If we don't guard our Habitat, we can become overrun with thoughts, beliefs, feelings and actions that are opposite of God's direction from those around us.

#### **1 Corinthians 10:12-14 NLT**

"If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."

3. The Habitat We \_\_\_\_\_

Our goal is to cultivate our relationship with Christ by properly tending our habitat, removing the weeds and providing the environment for the seed of God's Word to grow.

A. We Create a \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 5:14-16 NLT**

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

B. We Create \_\_\_\_\_

Everyone at 4H program had the same purpose. They wanted to see what was planted grow and produce good fruit.

Regardless of the specific challenges we face, it is beneficial for us to be in an environment where everyone has the same goal.

**Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT**

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."