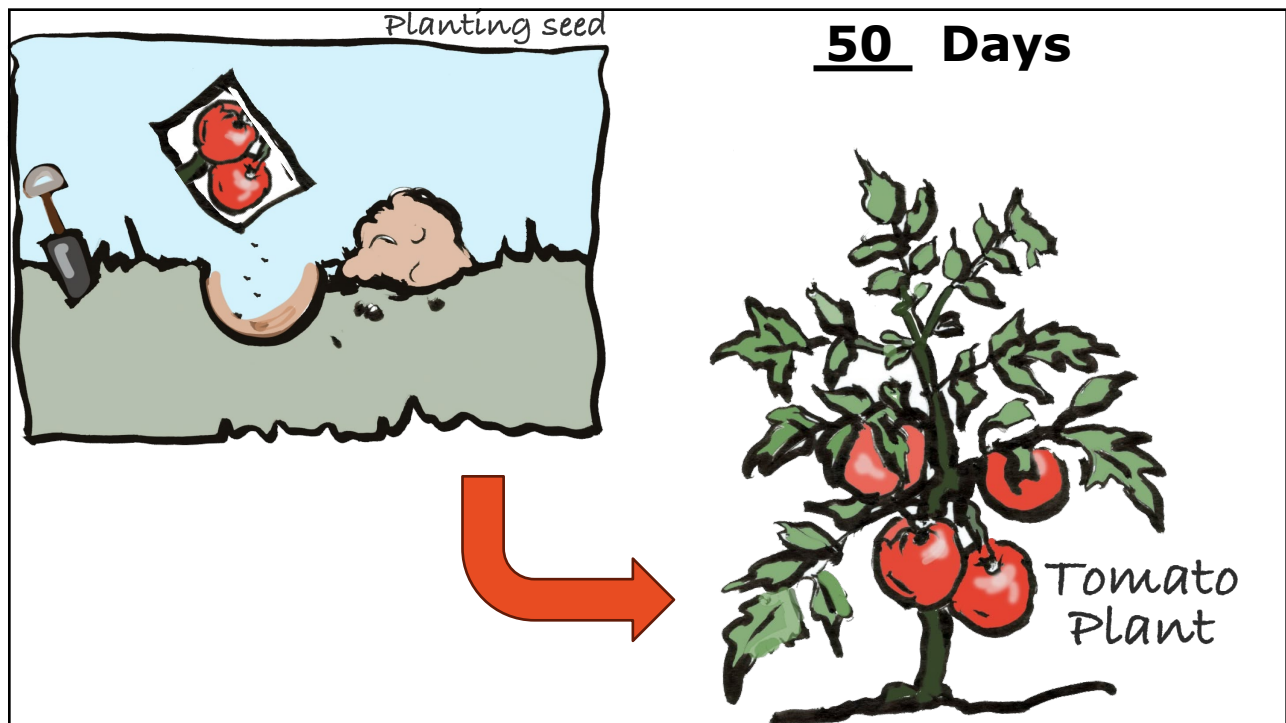


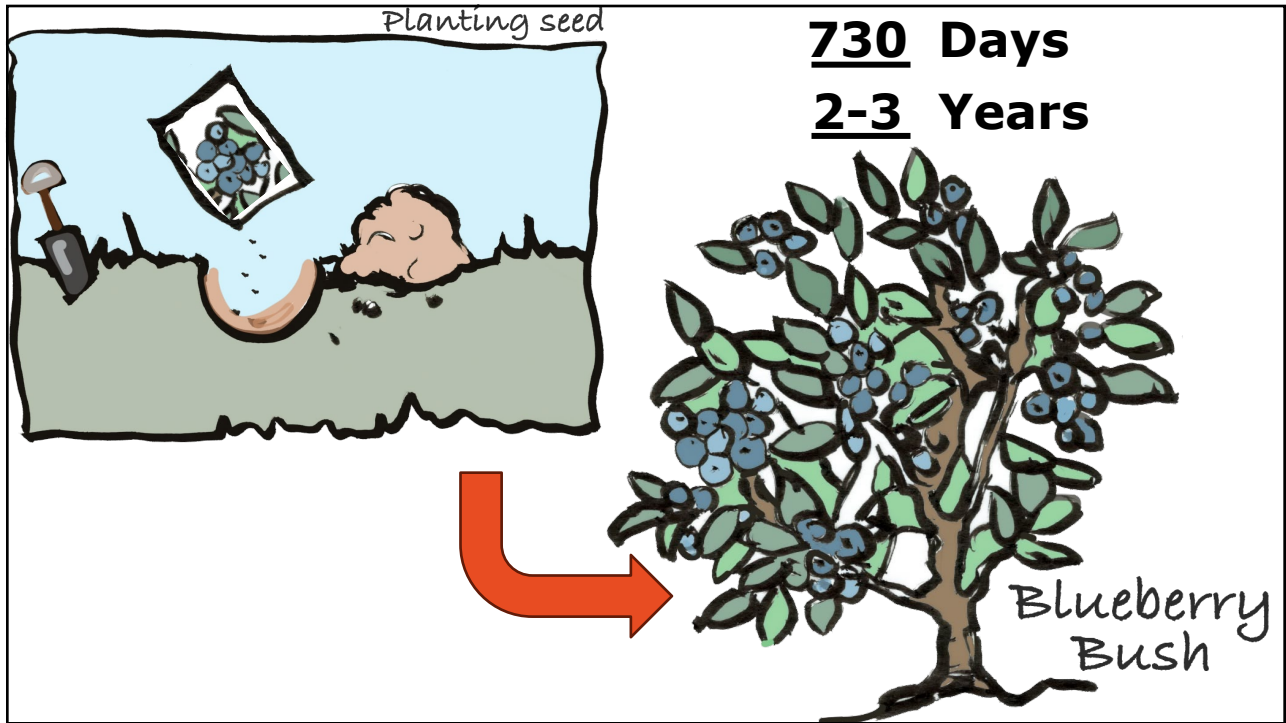
From Seed to Fruit

How long does it take to go
from the first effort
to the desired result?

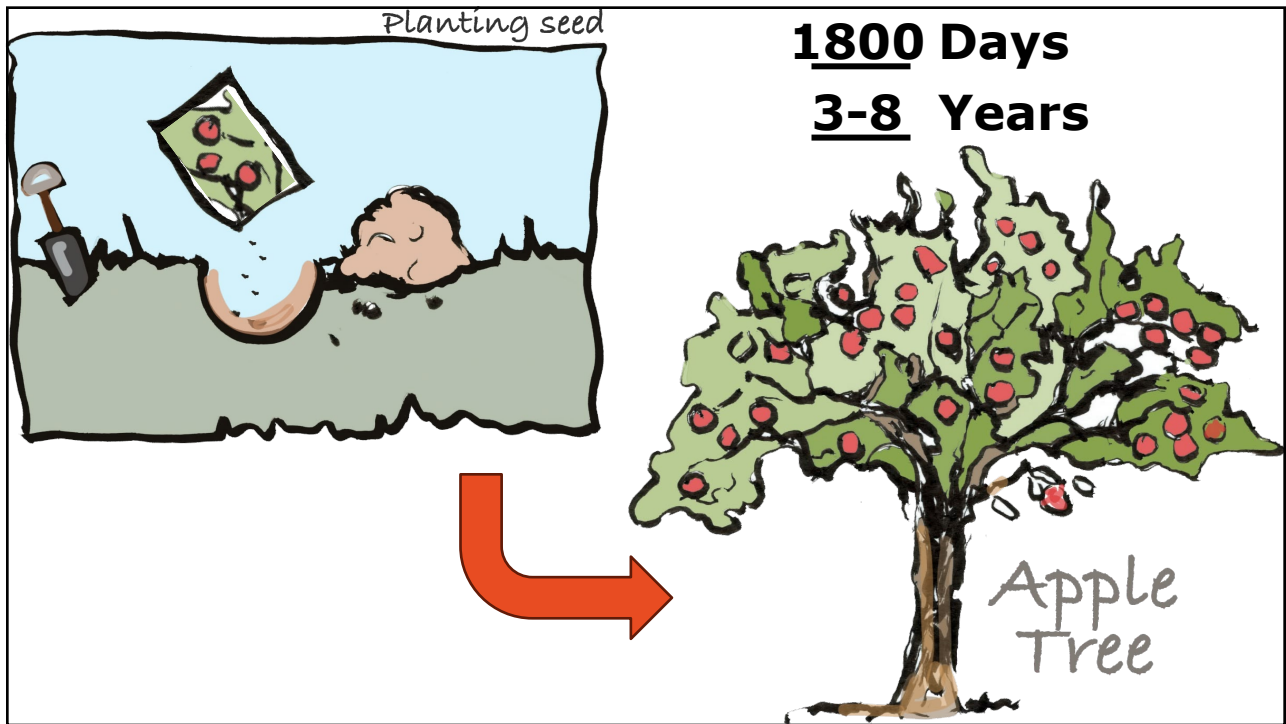
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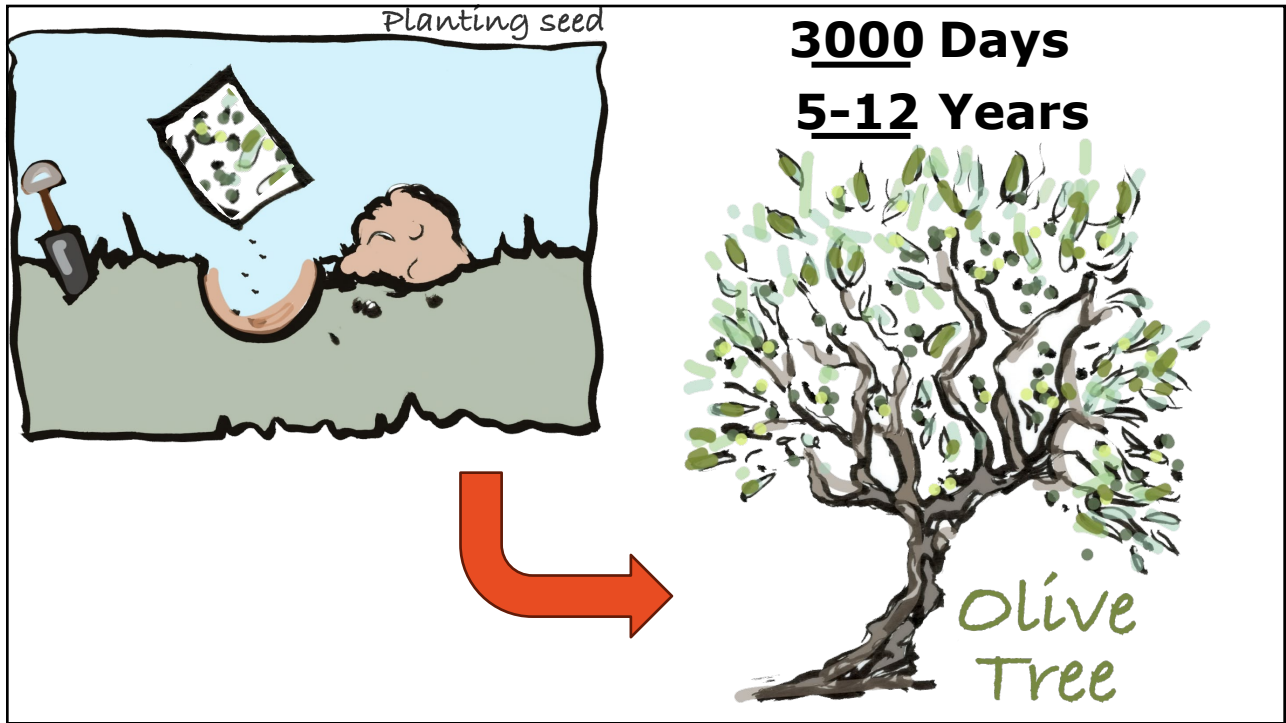
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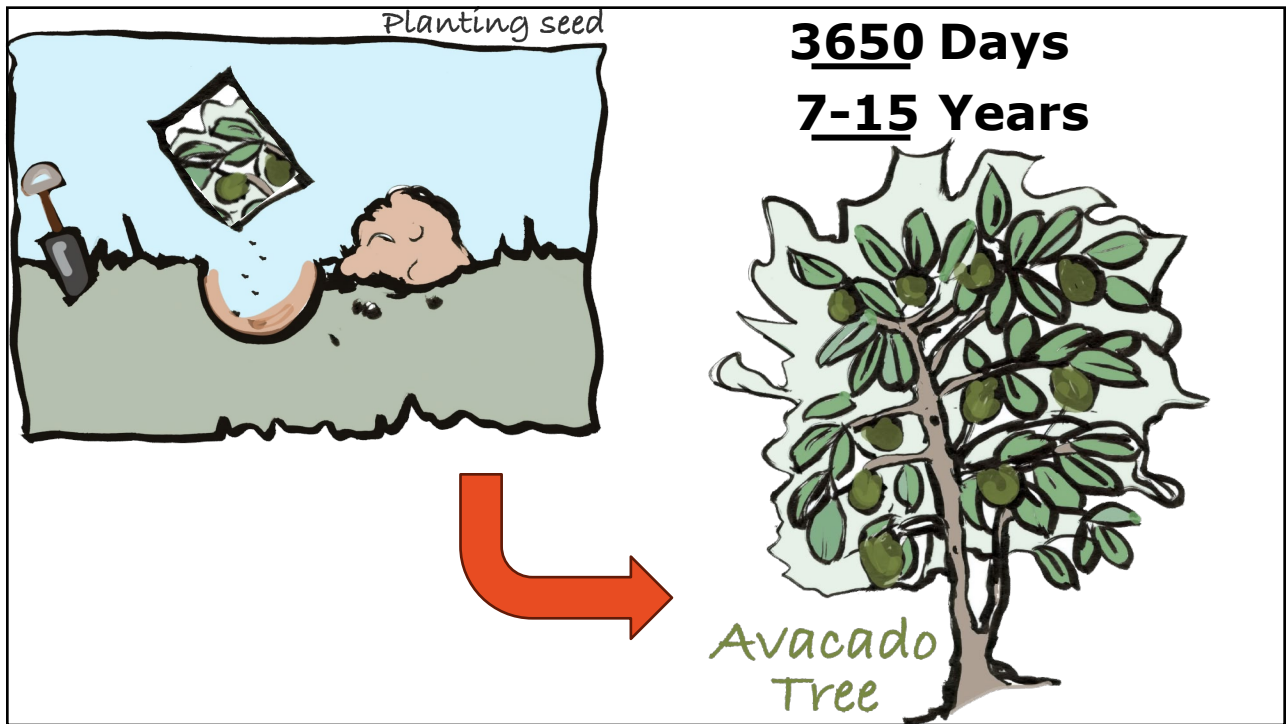
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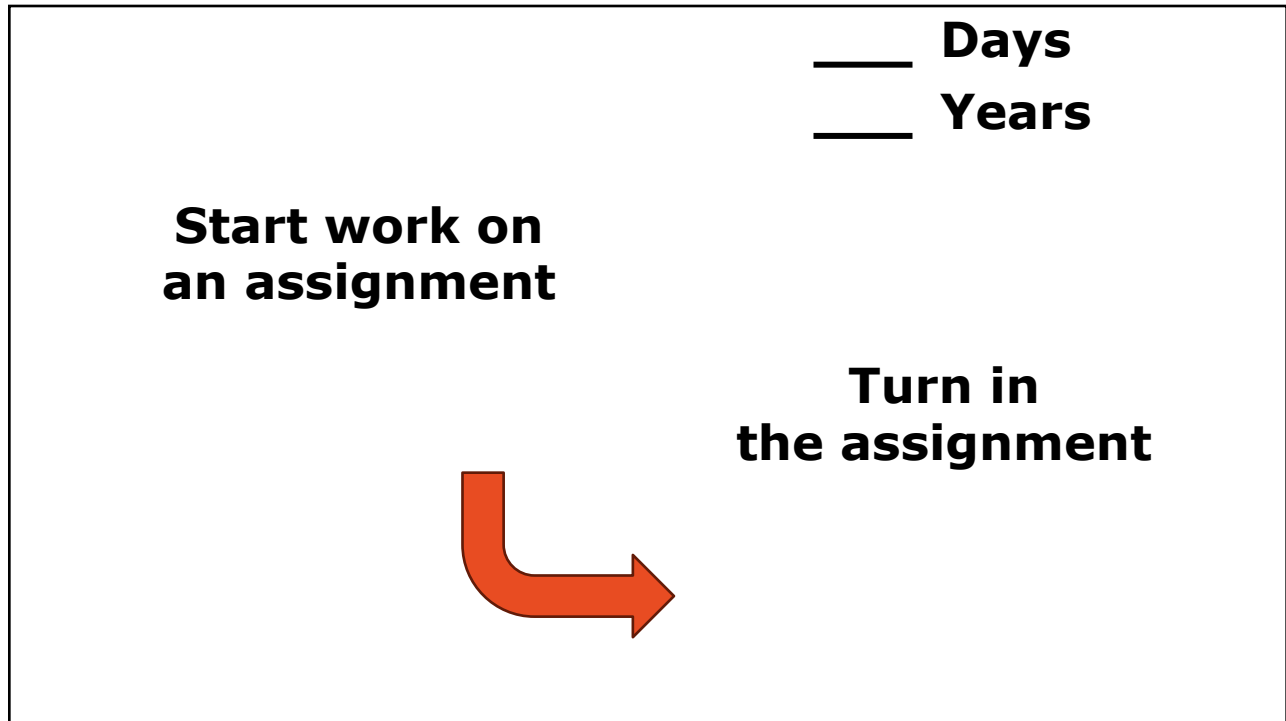
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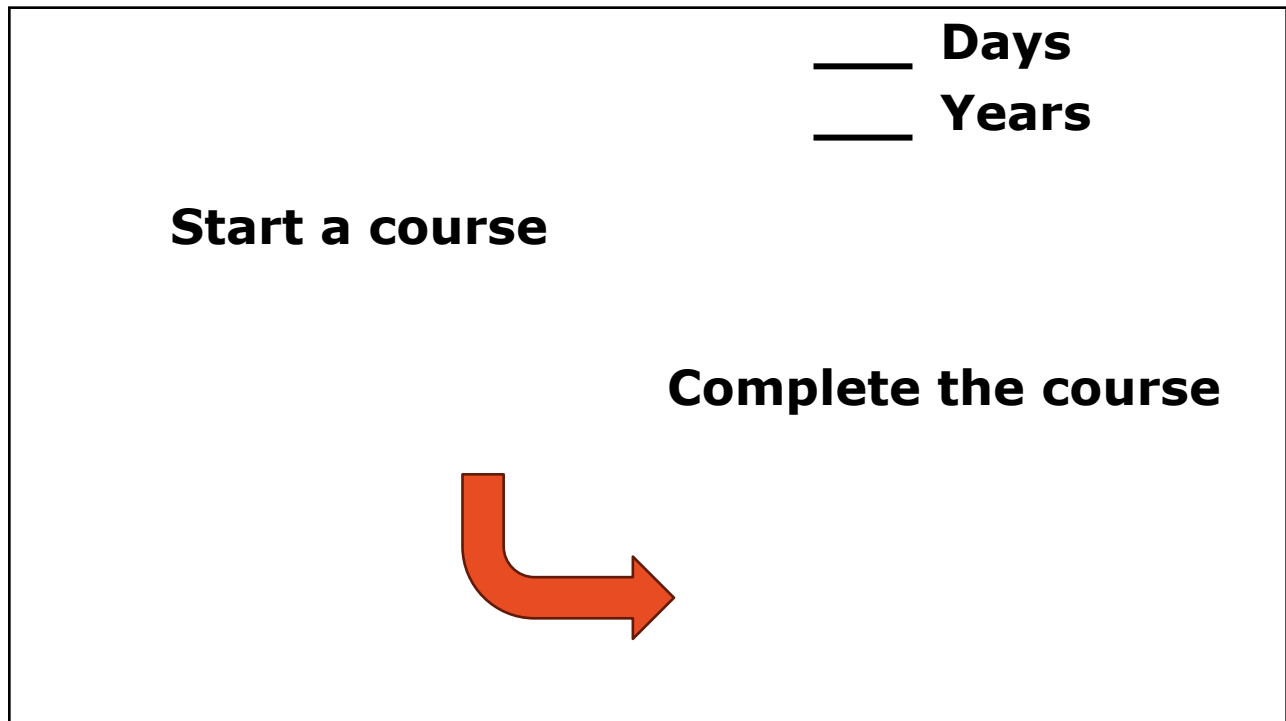
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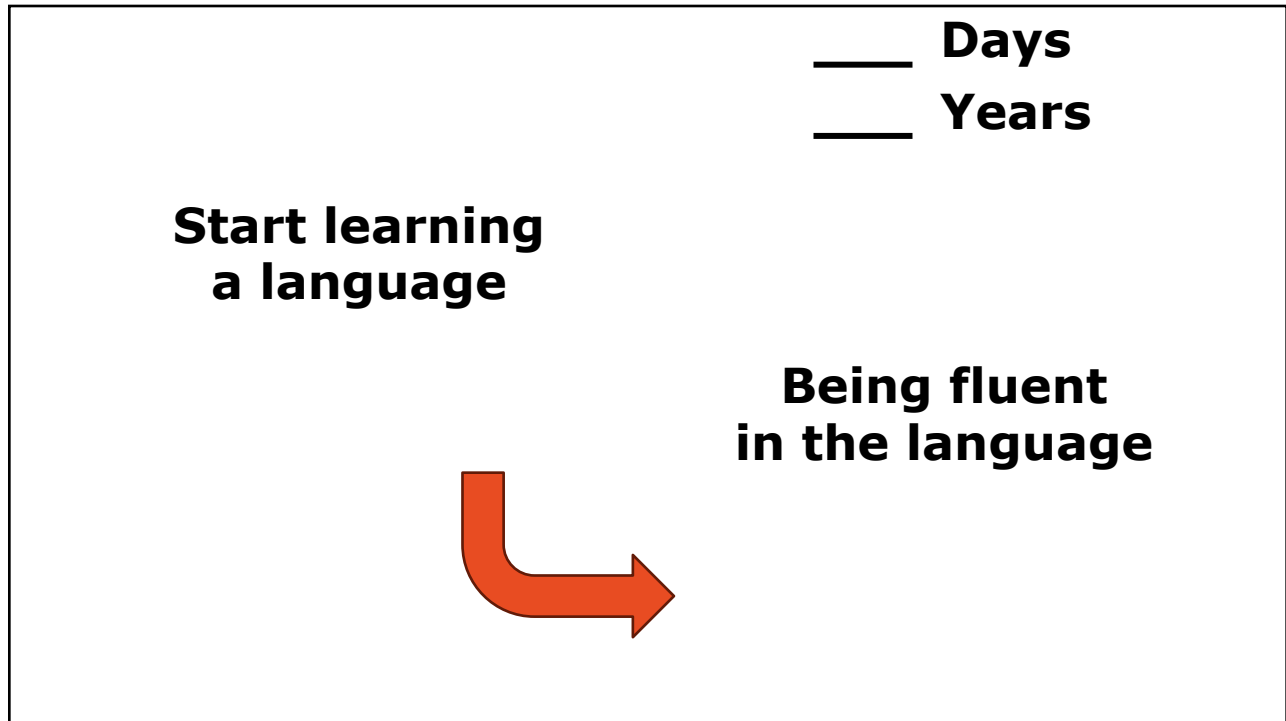
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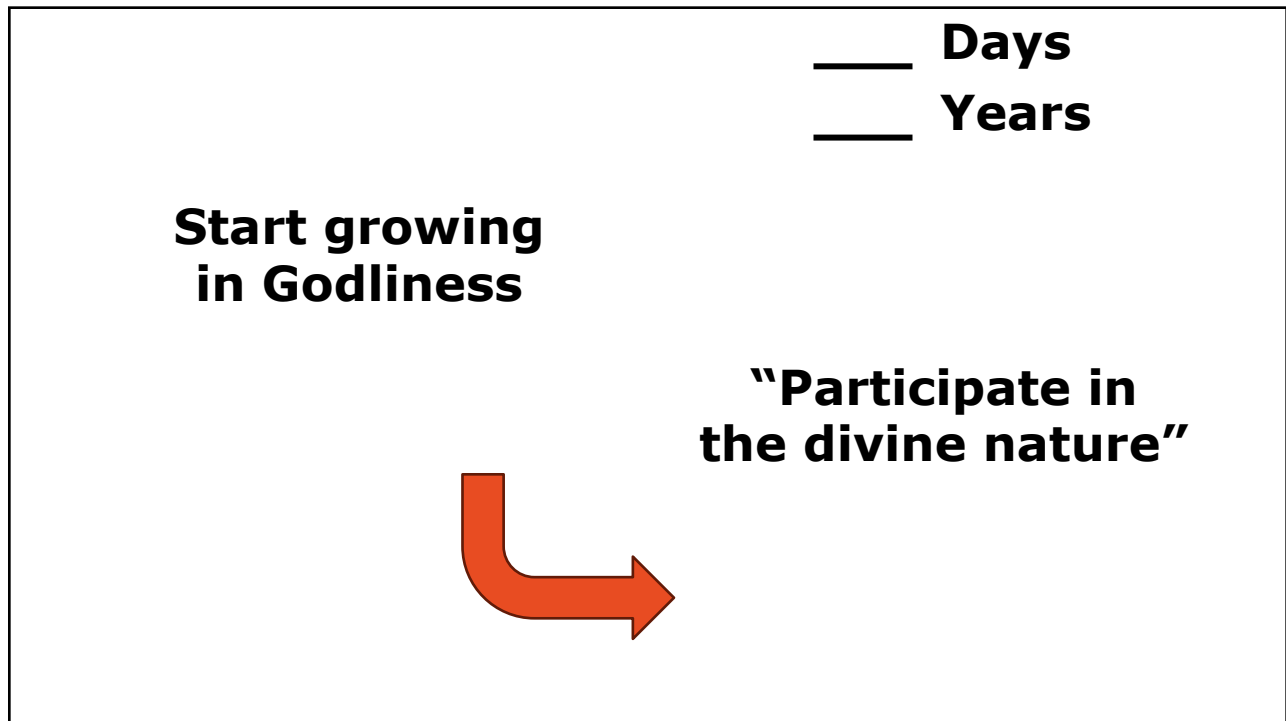
7



8



9



10

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What does it mean to trust the GIFT rather the GIVER? What is an
2. Why is it tempting to trust the GIFT rather that?
3. Where are you tempted to trust the GIFTS that God gives rather t
4. Why is it better to trust the Lord rather than His gifts?
5. What steps can we take to put our trust in the Lord rather than H
God, sincerely, for all the gifts He has given.)

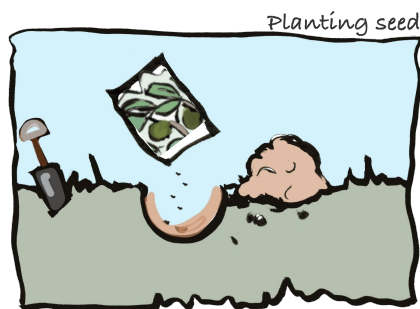
Conversation starters

What are good things that you are thankful for?
Who gave you those things?
Have you thanked them?

11

Perseverance and Godliness

2 Peter 1:1-15
ref.ly/2P1;niv



12

2 Peter 1:1-15

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who through the righteousness of our God
and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as
precious as ours:

² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the
knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

13

³ His divine power has given us everything we need
for a godly life through our knowledge of him who
called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through
these he has given us his very great and precious
promises, so that through them you may participate
in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in
the world caused by evil desires.

14

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, **God did by sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the **righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us**, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

15

2 Peter 1:3-15

³ **His divine power** has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us **his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

16

- ⁵ **For this very reason**, make every effort to
add to your faith goodness;
and to goodness, knowledge;
⁶ and to knowledge, self-control;
and to self-control, perseverance;
and to perseverance, godliness;
⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection;
and to mutual affection, love.

17

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

18

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

19

¹² So **I will always remind you of these things**, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure **you will always be able to remember these things**.

20

- ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to
add to your faith goodness;
and to goodness, knowledge;
⁶ and to knowledge, self-control;
and to self-control, **perseverance**;
and to perseverance, godliness;

21

Perseverance

Remain in the right place, even when it is hard

Keep doing the right thing, even when it is hard

22

“Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint;
heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony.
My soul is in deep anguish.
How long, LORD, how long?”

Psalm 6:2-3

23

“For in this hope [resurrection of God’s honored people into His Kingdom] we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if **we hope for what we do not yet have**, we wait for it **patiently.**”

Romans 8:24-25

24

"[Love] always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres."

1 Corinthians 13:7

25

"May the **God who gives endurance** and **encouragement** give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:5-6

26

“As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of **Job’s perseverance** and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

James 5:11

27

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;
⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, godliness;

Trusting God requires perseverance
 Becoming like God requires perseverance
 Becoming like God includes growing in perseverance

28

- ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to
add to your faith goodness;
and to goodness, knowledge;
- ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control;
and to self-control, perseverance;
and to perseverance, **godliness**;

Our behavior is guided by God, not people

- Pursuing the perfection of God
- Not: being a bit better than the people around us

29

"the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority."

2 Peter 2:9-10

- God protected Noah
 - "A preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5) in a world where "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5)

30

“the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.”

2 Peter 2:9-10

- God rescued Lot
 - “a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)” (2 Peter 2:7-8)

31

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

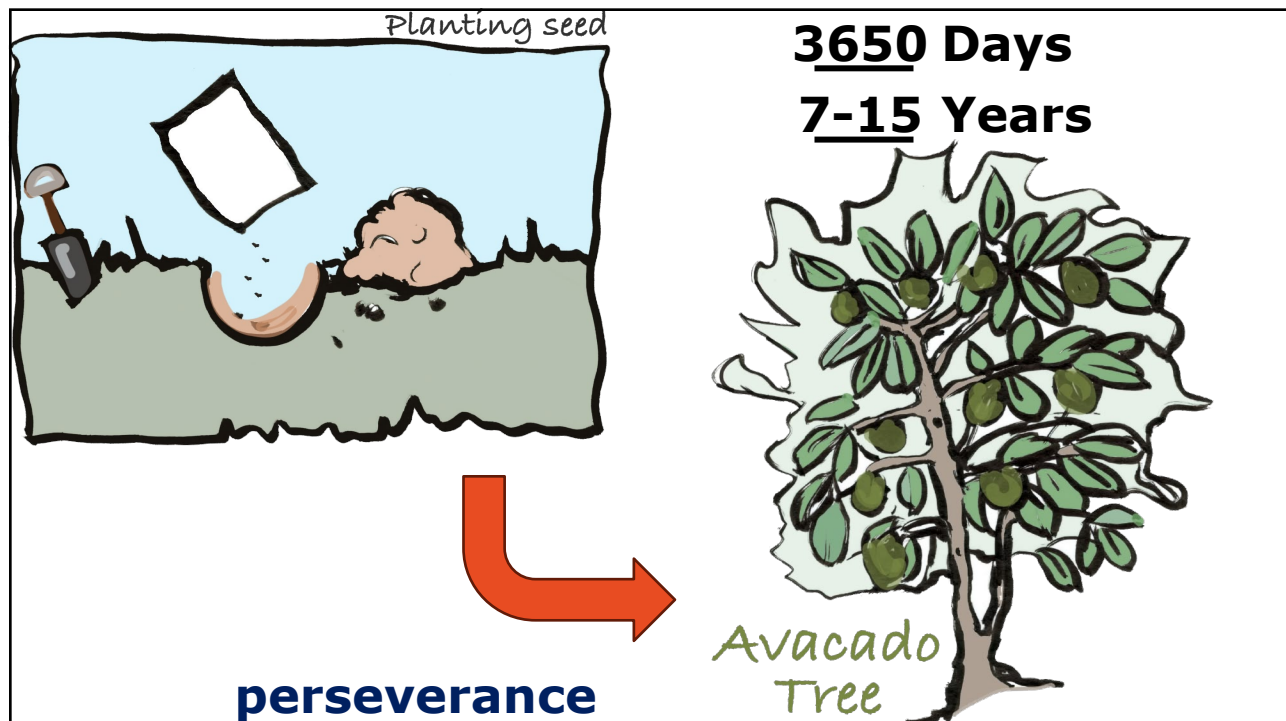
32

The Big Idea

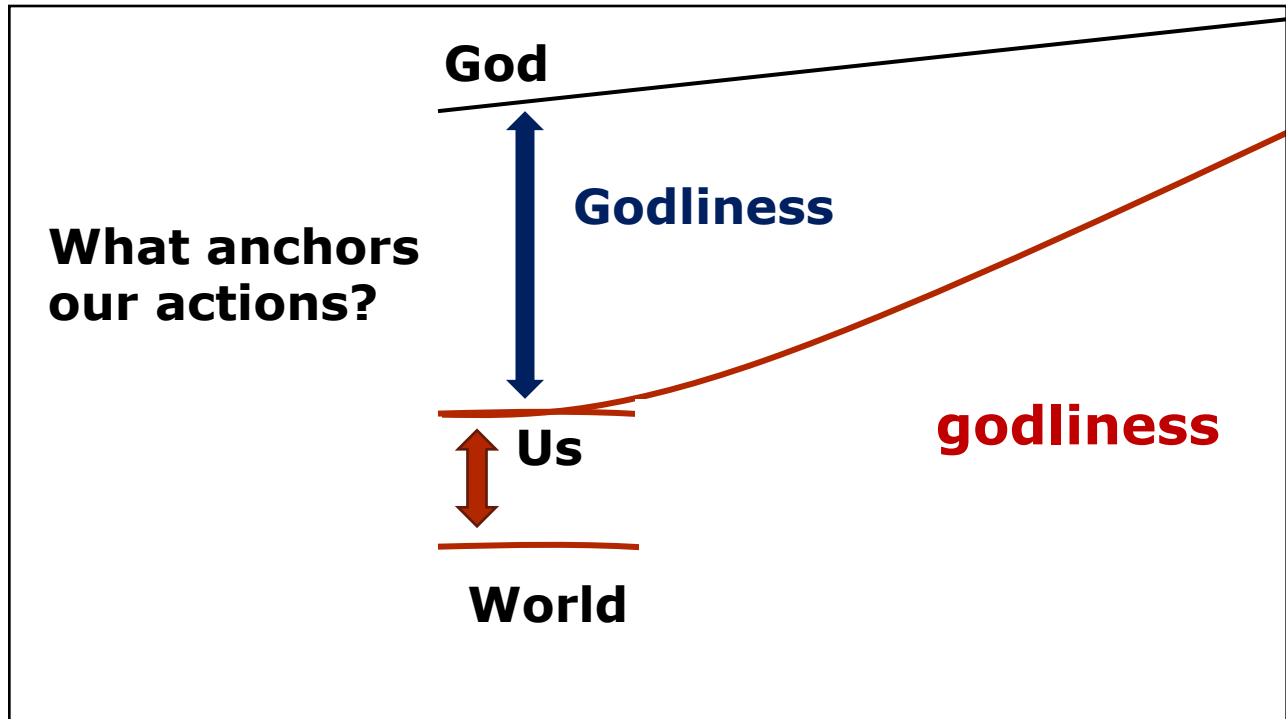
Growing in God **godliness**
 requires ongoing pursuit of God's ways
even when it is a struggle

- Internal: my shortcoming **perseverance**
- External: the world's shortcomings

33



34



35

The Big Idea

Growing in God
requires ongoing pursuit of God's ways
even when it is a struggle

36

Putting it into practice

- **Be firmly planted in the GOSPEL**
 - There is no condemnation IN JESUS!
 - Like a mentor who is fighting for us, God Almighty is working for our growth!
 - We make every effort **because we are loved!** ...without any fear of not being loved
 - Love deepens the desire for growth

37

Putting it into practice

- **Choose to grow in PERSEVERANCE**
 - Continued pursuit of the good is good in itself!
 - And it is necessary to reach the good we seek
 - “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and **by persevering** produce a crop.” Luke 8:15
 - First steps may be backwards!

38

Putting it into practice

- **Choose to grow in GODLINESS**
 - “train yourself to be **godly**. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7b-8
 - Don't be satisfied with being like the good around us, or even better than it
 - ***Imitate the goodness of God Himself***

39

Putting it into practice

- **Challenge: Where should YOU be growing?**
 - By August 15...
 - I want to stop...
 - I want to be doing... **Pick 1 or 2...or 3**
 - I want to change...
 - I want to have done...
 - Pray daily **Godliness**
 - Scripture: memorize, meditate, ...
 - Action items for this month **Perseverance**
 - Find someone to do periodic check-ins

40

CROSSWAY

GROW

Home > Grow



By the Power
and Promises of God,
by August 15,
I will grow in...

Self
Control

crosswaymchurch.org/grow



41

By God's Power and Promises,
growing by August 15...

FAITH

GOODNESS KNOWLEDGE

SELF CONTROL PERSEVERANCE

GODLINESS MUTUAL AFFECTION

LOVE OTHER

Near the appropriate category...

- Add your name, or initials, or an anonymous mark

42

The Big Idea

Growing in God
requires ongoing pursuit of God's ways
even when it is a struggle

43

"Never be lacking in zeal,
but **keep your spiritual fervor**, serving the Lord.
Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:11-12

44

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1b-2

45

2 Peter 1:3-6

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life ...
 through his very great and precious promises ...
 so that **you may participate in the divine nature...**

For this very reason, make every effort
 to add to your faith...

perseverance and godliness

46