

# Storytime with Jesus

## “The Seed of Truth”

### **Bible Story: The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:3-23.**

Let's think about dirt for a minute. Dirt is messy. Mom (or grandma) may get upset if you track dirt into the house.... Any gardener will tell you that the smelliest compost makes the best fertilizer. Sometimes we look at the sin and dirt in our lives and don't see anything good. **God sees our dirty hearts and sees a good place to plant his Word.** We don't have to “clean up” our lives in order to be fruitful for Christ. We simply have to let him use the dirt of our lives for his glory.

### **Introduction:**

1. Do you know what a parable is? **Parables are stories Jesus told to teach us important lessons about the Kingdom of Heaven.**

Listen to the story carefully. Jesus is telling a story about a farmer and his soil and how he plants his crops. There is more to the story than just dirt and planting so listen carefully so you will understand what Jesus is REALLY trying to teach us.

### **Matthew 13:3-9**

*That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.”*

## Read: Matthew 13:18-23 Jesus Explains the Parable of the Soils

<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

### Discussion:

- So, what does the seed represent? (Allow a student to respond.) **The seed is the word of God.**
- What do the four different kinds of soil represent? (Allow a child to respond.) **The four different soils are the four different ways people react to hearing the Gospel, the word of God.**
- We can imagine our hearts, and the hearts of everyone in the whole world, being like a garden patch, like one of these types of soil.
- Let's talk about the different ways people respond when they hear the message about the Kingdom

**Jesus said that one way people respond is to not understand.** (Point to the first picture, of the hard path with the birds.)

- Sometimes when we hear the word of God, we don't get it, and we soon forget about it because the evil one, the devil, comes and takes away the words, like a bird taking seeds off a sidewalk. The seeds can't grow on the sidewalk, so the birds take it away. These people don't understand because they have made their hearts hard toward God. The Bible can be confusing sometimes, and it's important for us to keep trying to understand what it has to say. But some people don't want to know what the Bible says, or give up trying to understand because they don't think it's worth their time. They have decided they don't want to really get to know Jesus, so they cannot understand the Bible. They have chosen to not understand, and chosen to live in their sin instead. These aren't bad people. Sometimes, Christians think about "sinners" as "bad people," when the truth is, we are all sinners. The only difference is, Christians are saved by grace, and people who aren't Christians, are not saved by grace, and therefore stuck in their sin.

**The second way we can respond is to get really excited right away about the Gospel.** (Point to second picture, of rocky soil.)

- Sometimes, people respond right away to the Bible. They think following Jesus is a great idea, so they start trying to live like the Bible tells us to live. But then something happens. Look back at your Bible, in verse 21 of Matthew 13. *"But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away"*.
- What happens to this group of people when they hear the word of God? (Allow children to respond.)
- When problems arise, or when they are persecuted, or judged, for believing in God, they stop following him. Why do they do that? Well, let's think of the garden picture again. If you plant seeds in gravel, there isn't enough good soil for the roots to get down good and deep. Plants need good, deep roots to get water, stay strong when it's windy, and to grow bigger. Without roots, plants die really quickly. People who hear the word of God and get really excited right away don't always have the deep roots, the understanding and experience, they need to stick with Jesus when times get tough, so they stop doing the things the Bible tells us to do.

The third group has some interesting problems too. Read verse 22 - what happens with the third group of people who hear the message of the Kingdom of Heaven? *"The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful"*

- The third group also hear the word of God. It gets down into their hearts and they too, think it's a good idea. But then they leave church Sunday afternoon, or go out into the world, and they start to worry about life and making money. What are some things you think they worry about? (Allow children to respond)
- **When we worry about things, we don't leave room for God.**
- 1 Peter 5:7. Says: *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*
- Instead of letting worries choke out our belief in God, like thorns choke out a growing flower, we need to give all our worries to God. He will take care of everything, because he cares for us!

**There is one more type of soil for us to look at today. It's the good soil.**

Who is the good soil, according to Matthew 13:23? *But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."* (Allow children to respond.)

- The good soil is the people who really understand God's word and produce fruit.
- What kind of fruit do you think we produce when we really understand God's message about the Kingdom of Heaven?
- Think of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.* and prayer, helping others, attending church, reading our Bibles, etc.)

**Now that we thoroughly understand the parable of the soils, let's talk about the point.**

**What's the point? Why did Jesus tell us this important story?** (Allow the children to answer, and respond to their ideas before continuing.)

There are a lot of good points we can get out of this parable.

- **One lesson we can learn is to try to be the good soil.** Are some people just born the good soil, while everyone else doesn't stand a chance to understand the Bible? Absolutely not. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God *"wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth."*

**Now that we know about the different kinds of soil we can be, we have a responsibility to do our best to be the good, fruit-bearing soil.**

- How can we try to NOT be the first type, the hard soil, where we choose sin? (Let the children respond.) Instead of choosing sin, we can choose to repent and ask God to forgive us.
- What about the second type, where the seed falls on rocky soil and we let the problems of this world kill our faith? (Allow children to respond). We can read the Bible and trust that what it says is true. We can be patient and let the word work its way into our hearts. We can pray that God would make us strong in the tough times.
- And the third soil? What do we do to avoid the thorny worries of this world? (Allow children to respond.) We do just what 1 Peter 5:7 tells us to do. **We give all our worries to God and trust him to take care of us.** These things aren't always easy to do. We won't always be good soil, but we can do our best to keep our hearts soft and ready to hear the word of God.

**Let's Pray!**

## Memory Verse:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only" James 1:22

## Videos:

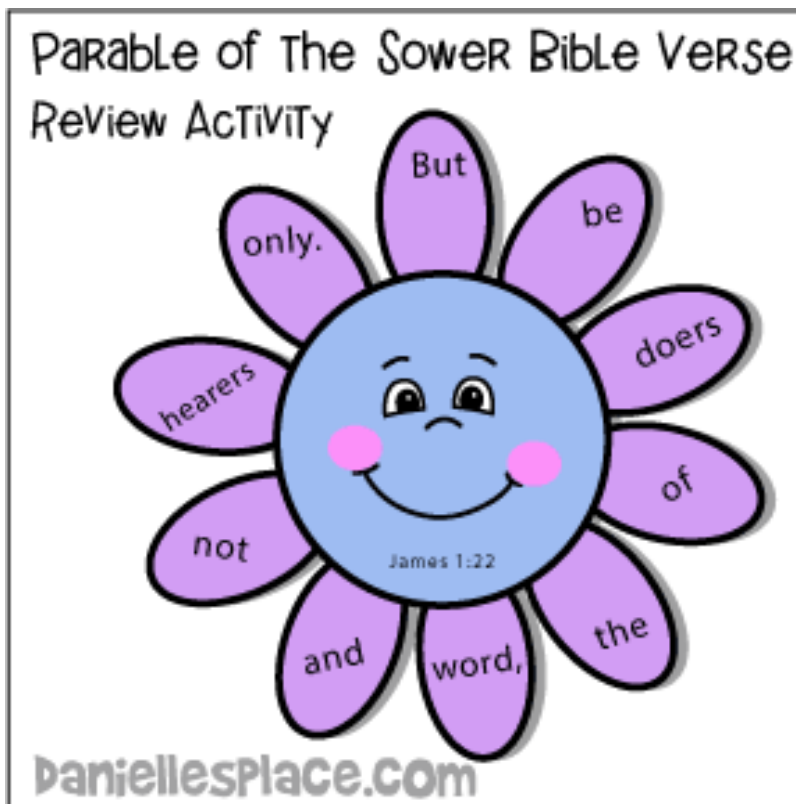
Here is a video to help explain the story as well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtvCJmMZbt0>

[https://app.pureflix.com/videos/405416998924/veggietales-the-little-house-that-stood-still?recommended=q%3Aveggie%](https://app.pureflix.com/videos/405416998924/veggietales-the-little-house-that-stood-still?recommended=q%3Aveggie%20) - Veggie Tales

**Craft:** Flower Face with Memory Verse

**Snack Craft:** Dirt Cups with Pudding, crushed Oreos, lollipops and gummy worms.



Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!  
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &  
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.

Thank you <https://daniellesplace.com> for great craft ideas and templates