

**Date Expected:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson: Parable of the Sower

**Welcome:** Begin by welcoming students by name. Talk and take a little time to get to know the kids and ask about their week. You can do a gathering activity if conversation is slow. There are some ideas in your binder. This is when you'll probably take attendance.

**The Main Idea: Jesus helps us to hear the Word and understand it.**

**The Story** (Read Directly from Bible in Matthew or Use Paraphrase Below)

**Paraphrase:** Jesus was out in a boat on the water teaching to a large group of people on the shore. He used plants to explain His lesson. A Sower is a person who plants seeds. This Sower went to plant seeds and they landed in a few different places. Some seeds fell on a path, and the birds ate them quickly. Some seeds fell on rocky ground, so they sprouted up right away, but the sun burned them because there wasn't enough dirt for strong roots. Some seeds fell on ground that was covered by weeds. The seeds couldn't grow because the weeds were in the way. Some seeds fell on good ground with nice dirt. Those seeds grew strong and the plants were so healthy that they made even more seeds. Jesus explained that the Sower in the story is like God. If someone hears about God's kingdom and doesn't understand, the devil grabs it out of the person's heart like the birds grab seed. Sometimes someone hears the Good News and is excited right away but then when something hard or sad happens, the joy and excitement wears off and they are lost. That is like the seed in the rocks that went away when the sun was too hot. Sometimes people hear the Good News and there are so many other things in their lives distracting them, that they lose touch with their relationship with God. They are busy thinking about how to get more worldly things like money or toys or how they can be more popular. They might be afraid of things in their lives or worried. That is like the seeds in the weeds. However, the good news is that sometimes people are like the seeds that fall on the good ground in healthy soil. They hear the Good News and God makes a harvest that is much more than they could ever hope for.

## The Parable of the Sower

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2** Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3** Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** 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.”

<sup>10</sup> The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

<sup>11</sup> He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>13</sup> This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

<sup>14</sup> In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

<sup>15</sup> For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.’<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

<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.”

### **The Parable of the Weeds**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup> “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

<sup>29</sup> “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

### **The Activity:**

Students are going to create a skit to demonstrate understanding of this Bible story.

### **Instructions:**

Students, today you are going to create a very short skit to show how this parable might work with someone your age.

If you get stuck, read verse 18 again. It has some clues.

You’ll do the same person’s experience in two ways.

The first one would be in either path, rocks, thorns, and then the second would be in good soil.

### **Here’s an example of how you might create your skit for the rocky ground.**

Student A would say: I went to camp this summer and learned about Jesus! I was so excited! They gave me a Bible but I don’t really read it and I don’t go to church.

Student B would say: Oh. Well, I think it is weird to talk about Jesus. Why would you believe that stuff?

Student A would say: Um. I guess I don’t really care about it.

### **Here’s an example of that same skit for good soil:**

Student A would say: I went to camp this summer and learned about Jesus! I was so excited! They gave me a Bible and I’ve been reading in the Psalms.

Student B would say the same thing they did in the rocky ground skit: Oh. Well, I think it is weird to talk about Jesus. Why would you believe that stuff?

Student A would say: It is really important to me. Jesus loves me and loves you too. I know it seems weird at first, but it really makes sense. Let me know if you ever have any questions.

## The Discussion:

- What would you say to someone who heard God’s Word but didn’t understand? What would Jesus want them to hear?
- Why would Jesus want people to hear the Bible, even if they aren’t going to believe or understand? (Because it might plant a seed for later?)
- What is an attitude or excuse that might make it harder to be “good soil?”
- What are some ways you can help the Word grow in your own life, or be “good soil?”
- What are some things that threaten to pull people your age away from their faith, like the birds in the parable? (TV, Youtube, too busy, other kids, etc)
- What is one way you can help scatter the Word like seeds?

**Prayer:** Please be sure to spend time in prayer with your class.

Ask kids if they have praise or prayer concerns. Pray for God’s Love to take root in their heart and grow stronger each day. Talk to God about what is going on in their lives. Ask God to help them to remember and apply what they are learning and to help them remember that He is with them, always.

## Other Resources:

- No Word Video: <https://youtu.be/V9lOOhGPrRvY?si=BUA8jkosxqRu2ksj>
- Saddleback: [https://youtu.be/IZEO\\_Ls2ERs?si=2nH5JHECXSNBJYLU](https://youtu.be/IZEO_Ls2ERs?si=2nH5JHECXSNBJYLU)
- Puppet Lesson: [https://youtu.be/Z4TQu0Otdno?si=B\\_OWbn\\_LljjHHrg](https://youtu.be/Z4TQu0Otdno?si=B_OWbn_LljjHHrg)
- God’s Story: Seeds and a Farmer: <https://youtu.be/JtvCJmMZbt0?si=93AV7XZ1-QfZfDJg>
- The Sower’s Song Worship: <https://youtu.be/3unpvYQJiic?si=S6NSo7E0h4sPv5Mg>

**Reminder: IN YOUR CLASSROOM, THERE ARE TWO POSTERS FOR YOU TO WORK ON ALL YEAR LONG. AS YOU DO EACH LESSON, ADD NOTES TO THOSE PAGES WITH WHAT YOU DISCOVER ABOUT GOD AND WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT YOU.**

