

# PARABLE OF THE SOWER

## *Matthew 13:1-23*

### **Matthew 13**

<sup>1</sup>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>He who has ears, let him 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, “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 he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <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>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup>For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men 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 his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. <sup>22</sup>The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”



# PARABLE OF THE SOWER

*Matthew 13:1-23*

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Where were the four places that seeds fell?
5		2.) What is a parable?
5		3.) What does the seed represent in the parable?
5		4.) Why do you think Jesus used parables to teach the people?

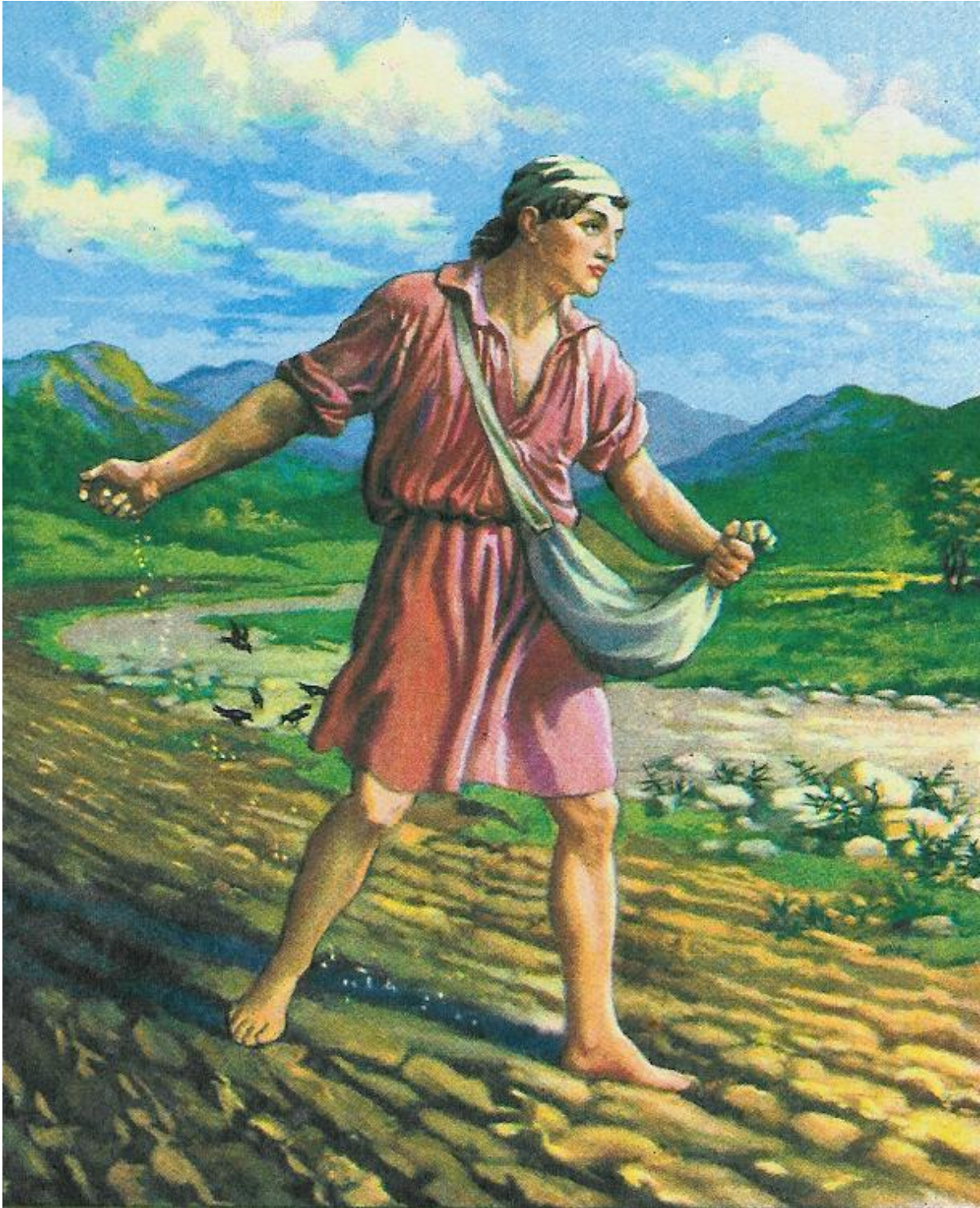
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		"...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

*Matthew 13:1-23*



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

*Matthew 13:1-23*



*The farmer spreads seed. It falls on the path, rocks, thorns, and in good soil.*

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

*Matthew 13:1-23*

## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: SEED PACKETS

Students will make “seed packets” to remind them how some seed fell on rocky places, on the path, among thorns, and on good soil.

### MATERIALS

1. 67 Lb. White Cardstock
2. Seed Packet Patterns
3. Scissors
4. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
5. Flower Seeds
6. Glue or Tape



### DIRECTIONS

1. Make copies of the “Seed Packet Pattern” for each student onto 67 lb cardstock.
2. Have students color the seed packet with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
3. Instruct students to cut the seed packet along the solid black lines.
4. Students will then fold on the dotted lines.
5. The two tabs on the sides of the seed packet pattern may be glued or taped to the back side of the packet.
6. Fill the packet with flower seeds and glue or tape the top tab closed.

### FOR DISCUSSION

As students are coloring their seed packets, review the meaning of the parable of the sower. The seed that fell on the path is like someone who hears the gospel message, does not understand it, and the devil snatches it away. The seed that fell on the rocky places is like the one who hears the gospel message, receives it with joy, but because it has not root, it lasts only a short time. The seed that fell among the thorns is like one who hears the gospel message, but the worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it out. The seed that fell on the good soil is like one who hears the gospel message, understands it, and it produces a bountiful harvest.

### TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

### MEMORY VERSE

*“...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.” John 14:6*

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

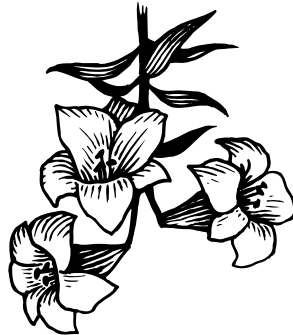
*Matthew 13:1-23*

## SEED PACKET PATTERN

### *Directions*

1. Take out one seed and give it to someone.
2. Explain that the seed is like God's love for us.
3. If we receive the seed, and take good care of it, the seed will grow into a beautiful plant.
4. If we receive Jesus as our savior and take good care of the relationship, we will grow into a beautiful child of God.

Spread Everywhere  
For Best Results,



Gospel Seeds

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:1-23



Find a message by writing the letters from the seeds in the blanks below.

	1	2	3	4
1	D	W	I	R
2	N	E		H
3	V	G	K	O
4	T	L	S	U

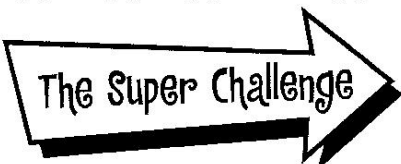
Illustrations include a bird in the top row, a bird in the middle row, a worm in the bottom row, and various squiggly lines representing seeds or soil.

W

1-2   2-4   2-2   2-1   1-2   2-2   3-3   2-1   3-4   1-2   3-2   3-4   1-1   4-3

1-2   3-4   1-4   1-1   1-3   4-1   4-3   2-4   3-4   1-2   4-3   1-3   2-1

3-4   4-4   1-4   4-2   1-3   3-1   2-2   4-3



Put coins on all the seeds except the one without a letter. Choose a coin to jump over another coin into the blank seed. Keep jumping coins until you have only one or two left.

# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON MATTHEW 13:1-23

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER



As Jesus sat by the lake, a large crowd gathered around him. Jesus got on a boat and taught the people as they listened from the shore.

Jesus told the crowd a parable. A parable is a story with an earthy and heavenly meaning.

Jesus told the story of a farmer who went out and planted seeds. As he did so, some of the seed fell on the path and the birds ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky soil where there was no soil so the seed sprang up quickly but then died. Other seed fell among thorns which choked the plants. And finally, some seed fell on good soil where it grew and grew.

Jesus then explained the heavenly meaning: "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

For more details, please read Matthew 13:1-23 in the Bible.

## QUESTIONS

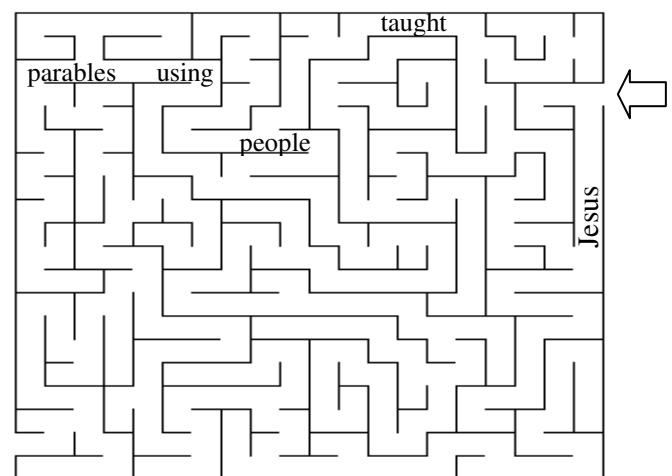
1. Where were the four places that seeds fell?
2. What is a parable?
3. What does the seed represent in the parable?
4. Why do you think Jesus used parables to teach the people?

## MEMORY VERSE

"...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

## MAZE MESSAGE

Write down each word as you come to it to find the hidden message.



Hidden message: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ideas For Home:

Today your child learned that God's word was like a seed. Sometimes it grows in people's hearts and sometimes it doesn't.

1. Have your child finish coloring this book.
2. Help your child learn the *Memory Verse*.
3. Practice the *Bible Story Rhyme*.
4. Read and discuss the bible story with your child.
5. Discuss what it takes for plants to grow up healthy. What does it take for us to grow up please God?

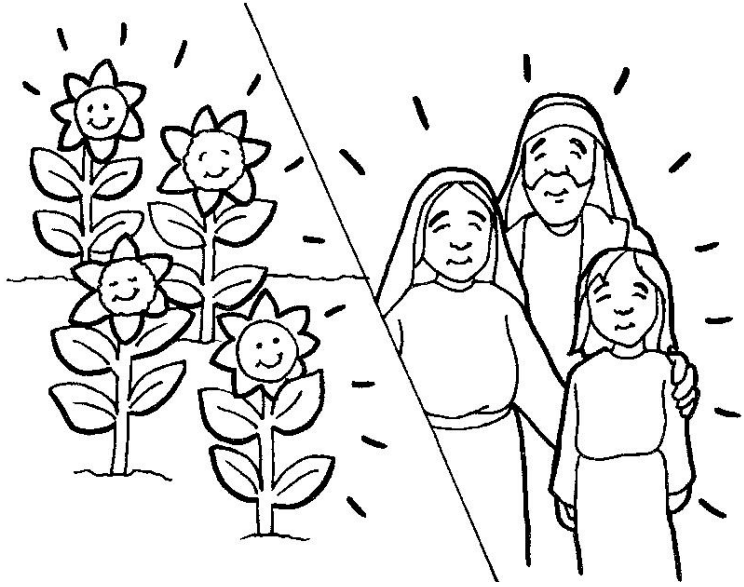
Bible Story Mini Book

# The Parable of the Sower



*Matthew 13:1-23*

Colored by: \_\_\_\_\_



The seed that fell on the good soil grew up well; just like people who obey God's word.



Jesus taught the people a story about a farmer who planted seeds.

## Memory Verse

“...I am the way and the truth and  
the life ...”                      John 14:6

## Bible Story Rhyme

**A farmer planted seeds,**  
*(Pretend to shake seeds out of a closed  
fist)*

**All that he had.**  
*(Hold out hands with palms up)*

**Some fell on good soil,**  
*(Thumbs up)*

**Some fell on bad.**  
*(Thumbs down)*



Some seeds fell on the  
road and some fell on  
the rocks.

## Have You Ever Sinned?

The Bible teaches that we have *all* sinned and do not measure up to God's glory. It also teaches that the price for sin is death which separates us from God. But even though we are sinners, Christ died for us and paid the price for our sin. We just need to ask him to forgive us and receive his free gift of salvation. Just pray this prayer, with a sincere heart, and Jesus will forgive you of your sins. You will become a child of God and live with Him in heaven.

*“Dear Jesus,*

*Please forgive me for the bad things that I have done. Please come into my heart and be my Lord and savior. In your name I pray, Amen.”*



Some of the seed was  
eaten by birds.

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

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## PRESCHOOL GAME

**Supplies:** Balloons (one for every four children)

**Challenge your preschoolers in this game based on the parable of the sower.**

**M**ake groups of four. Have each group make a small circle, and assign one of the following roles to each of the four children in each group:

- **Birds** put their hands at their ribs and flap their arms like bird wings. They can only use their “wings” to bat the balloon.
- **Rocks** put their hands at their sides and stand very still. They can only use their heads or shoulders to bat the balloon.
- **Thorns** put their hands at their sides. They can only use their legs and feet to kick the balloon.
- **Good dirt** stands relaxed. They can use either their hands or their feet to bat the balloon.

Say: **Today we are going to see how well you can pass the balloon around your group. You can only hit the balloon in the way I showed you, no matter what other people in your group are doing. Let's see how many times you can pass the balloon around your group.** Let the children trade roles and try this activity in each of the four roles. Ask: **What was the easiest way to play our game today?** Say: **When seeds fall on good soil, they grow quickly and easily. Our hearts are like good soil when we hear and do what God tells us to through the Bible, our church, and our parents.**

This game can be simplified for younger children by showing them one action at a time and having all the children perform the same action together.

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## PRESCHOOL BIBLE STORY RHYME



**A farmer planted seeds,**  
*(Pretend to shake seeds out of a closed fist)*

**All that he had.**  
*(Hold out hands with palms up)*

**Some fell on good soil,**  
*(Thumbs up)*

**Some fell on bad.**  
*(Thumbs down)*