

JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES



Bible Reference: **Matthew 12: Mark 4: Luke 8**

Date: **9/20/26**

2nd Service

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

Memory Verse:

"Shine your light before others so they see your good works and give glory to God." **Matthew 5:16**

Big Picture Question:

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Christ Connection

- People who hear and believe God's Word will grow to be like Jesus and share His good news with others.

Schedule

- Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes
- **Kids Worship @ 11:00**.....15-20 minutes
- Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes
- Movement Activity.....10 minutes
- Craft.....5-7 minutes
- Music.....5 minutes
- Friends from Afar.....5-7 minutes
- Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes
- Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes
- Additional Activities.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

Happy Second Sunday of the new Shepherding Year! As we establish the routines of this new year and the children adjust to their new class, both at church and school, would you pray that the people they meet and the places they go this year would help them to know God better? We are so thankful for your willingness to serve these children!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

Some people naturally have green thumbs, but for most amateur gardeners, making plants grow takes skill and hard work. This is because the curse placed many obstacles in the way of natural growth. The soil may be too tough, the heat too stifling, the shade too restrictive, or the water too scarce. What looks healthy one week, can quickly wilt the next. Growing something is harder than it looks.

Maybe that's part of what makes Jesus' parable about the sower and the seeds so relatable. In Jesus' day, farmers would scatter seed as they went through their field. Everyone listening to Jesus that day would have been familiar with this practice. In His parable, Jesus described four kinds of soil—four different heart conditions—with only one of them producing lasting fruit.

The seed, which Jesus says is the Word of God, lands in a variety of places, but not every setting leads to growth. The difference isn't the seed; it's the soil.

The good soil, Jesus says, represents those who “hear the word with an honest and good heart” and “hold on to it” (Luke 8:15). The Greek phrase for “hold on” means “to cling tightly, to keep secure.” It's the picture of someone refusing to let go, even when life gets hard. That's the difference between hearing and holding.

Growth takes time, and good soil doesn't happen by accident. God softens it through repentance, waters it through His Spirit, and keeps it fertile through His Word.

As you prepare to lead kids this week, ask the Lord to till the soil of their hearts to make them receptive to His Word. May the seeds you plant through teaching them about Jesus produce a future multiplied harvest.

JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

Some people are naturally great at gardening, but for most people, growing plants takes real work. This broken world makes growth harder – the dirt might be too hard, the sun too hot, the shade too thick, or the water too scarce. A plant that looks healthy one week can be dead the next. Growing something is harder than it looks.

That might be why Jesus's parable about the sower and the seeds feels so real. Back then, farmers scattered seed by hand as they walked through their fields – everyone listening would've pictured this instantly. In the story, Jesus describes four kinds of soil (he really meant four kinds of hearts) but only one actually grows something that lasts.

The seed is God's Word, and it lands in different soils. But not every soil lets it grow. The seed doesn't change – the soil does.

The good soil, Jesus says, is people who hear God's Word with an honest, open heart and "hold on to it" (Luke 8:15). That phrase means to grip something tightly and not let go, even when things get tough. That's the real difference: not just hearing God's Word, but holding onto it.

Growing good soil takes time, and it doesn't happen by accident. God softens it through repentance, waters it with His Spirit, and keeps it healthy through His Word.

Welcome to the start of a new school year and Shepherding year! As you help the children in your room get used to their new setting, focus on getting to know who they are. Be intentional about remembering their names.

Sometimes it can be helpful to learn something about them and pair that with their name to remember them better. (For Example: "Today I met Suzie whose favorite movie is *Moana*.") Then, the next time you see the child, you will have a better chance of remembering their name, and it will give you something to talk about ("Hi Suzie! I know last time I saw you, you told me your favorite movie is *Moana*! Which song from *Moana* is your favorite?")

OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Guide kids to sit in a circle on the floor. Demonstrate how to carefully pass a Bible from one child to the next. Play worship music while the kids pass the Bible around the circle. Periodically, stop the music and encourage the child holding the Bible to open it to any page. Point to the Bible book name, read it aloud, and prompt all the kids to repeat it. Continue to play, making sure each child has a chance to open the Bible and point to a Bible book name. Extend the activity by instructing the child to point to a large number for the chapter and a small number for a verse.
- SAY We found different books inside the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true. Jesus taught about God's kingdom by telling a story about a man who planted seeds. The story helped people understand that God wants us to learn, love, and obey His Word.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Find the ziploc bags in your bin containing potting soil, small rocks, and seeds. Bring children to sit together on the carpet and pass the bags around for kids to examine.
- SAY I brought a few things that remind me of the Bible story. Each of these things is part of a story Jesus told the people. Jesus often used stories like this one to teach people about God's kingdom. Listen carefully in the story for the words soil, rocks, and seeds.

Bible Story

- Jesus traveled from town to town telling people about God's kingdom. One day, while Jesus was sitting by the sea, a big crowd came to hear what He had to say. There were so many people that Jesus got into a boat to teach while the people stood on the shore. Jesus told them a story. "A man went out to plant seeds," Jesus said. "Some seeds fell on a hard path. Birds came and ate them up. "Some seeds fell on rocky ground. They started to grow, but they had no roots. When the sun got hot, the plants dried up. "Some seeds fell in a patch of thorns. The thorns grew and choked the plants so they couldn't grow big. "But some seeds fell on good soil. They grew and grew and made much fruit!" Later, Jesus told His friends what the story meant. He said, "The seeds are like God's Word. Some people hear God's Word but do not understand it. Some people are glad to hear it but stop following Jesus when things get hard. Some people let worries or money get in the way. But some people are like the good soil—they hear God's Word, love it, and obey it. They tell others the good news about Jesus!





Christ Connection

- People who hear and believe God's Word will grow to be like Jesus and share His good news with others.

Review Activity

- Hold up the Bible story picture and show it to the kids. Point out key things from the story as you hold up the good soil the rocks, and the seeds. Act out being the farmer in the story for the children. Invite interested children to take turns being the farmer and act out the story. Provide verbal cues or other supports as needed to enable kids to be successful.
- SAY Jesus said the seeds in His story are like God's Word. The farmer in the story is the one who loves Jesus and tells others about Him. People who love Jesus share God's word with other people. Some people hear about God's word but don't follow Jesus, so they are like the rocks in the story. Some people hear it but stop following Jesus when it gets hard. But some hear God's Word, believe it, and tell others about God's kingdom, so they are like the good soil. Jesus taught about God's kingdom. People who love Jesus tell others about Him. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Arrange chairs (one less than the number of children playing) in a double row, with chairs back-to-back. Guide children to walk around the rows in a circle like musical chairs while you chant, "Farmer, farmer, farmer..." At any time, you may shout, "Not a farmer!" and children should hurry to find a seat. Anyone left without a seat may join you in chanting.

SAY Jesus used stories called parables to teach people about God's Kingdom. Our Bible story today is one of the parables Jesus told. He used things people around him were familiar with, like farming. A farmer would have planted seeds to grow his crops to sell and to feed his family. A good farmer would plant many seeds to get the most plants to grow. Jesus wanted the people to understand His teachings and to tell many others about God's Kingdom. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true!

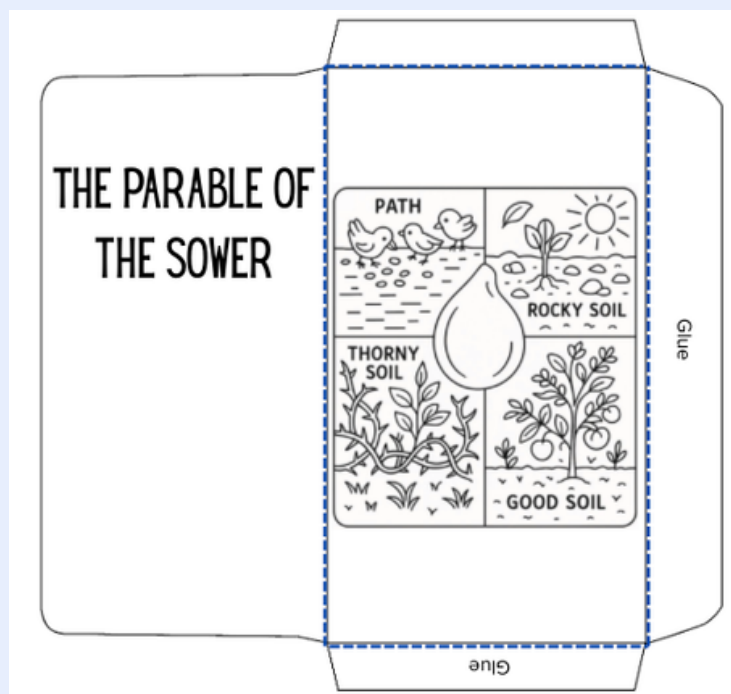




Craft

5-7 minutes

Give each child a parable of the sower envelope cutout. Place crayons and stickers on each table and allow children to decorate their envelopes. Help children to fold along the dotted blue lines, folding away from the picture. Pass out glue sticks as children need them and glue the labeled flaps to the opposite panel to create an envelope. After children have created an envelope, give them several seeds to place inside their seed packet and a piece of tape to tape the last flap shut. Encourage the children to take their seeds home, and find good soil to plant their seeds in so they will grow.



Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included.





Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, thank You for Your words that we find in the Bible. Please help (Say each child's name.) hear, obey, and love Your Word. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Say the memory verse together as a group. Repeat together several times as you and the children pretend to plant seeds.
- **SAY** The Bible teaches us that God's word will remain. it isn't like the grass or like flowers growing in a field that eventually wither and die. God's Word, the Bible, will always remain. In our story today, Jesus taught about God's Kingdom. People who love Jesus tell others about him.

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

- What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
- What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
- Who told a story to teach people about God's kingdom? (Jesus)
- What was the man doing in Jesus' story? (planting seeds)
- When we hear a story from the Bible, what should we do? (listen, believe, and tell others)
- Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

SAY Jesus taught about God's kingdom. He often told stories to help people understand what God wanted them to know. These stories are called parables. Jesus told a story about a man who planted seeds. Some seeds grew, but others did not grow. Jesus said the seeds are like God's Word. Some people love and obey God's Word, and others do not.





Additional Activities

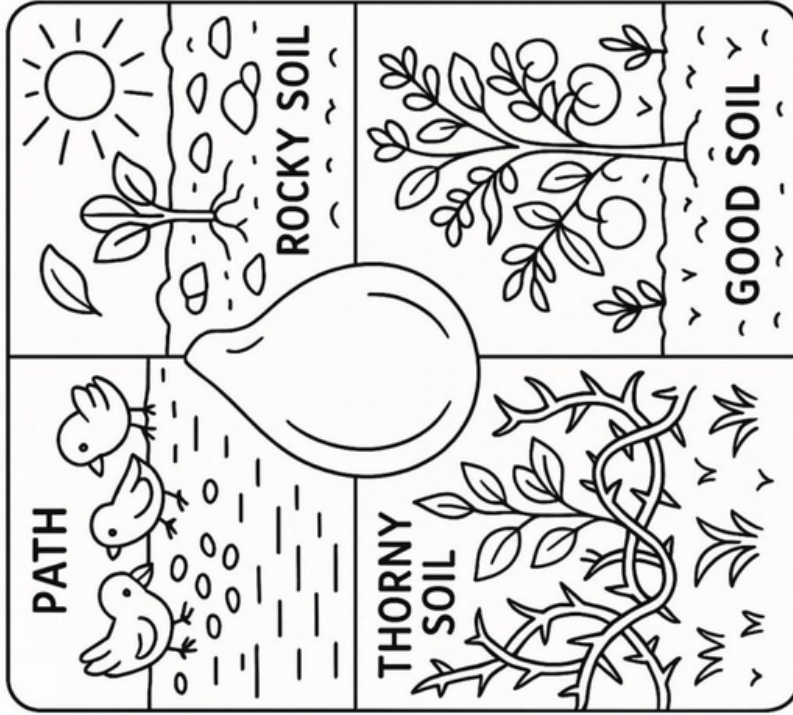
As Needed

Clap a Rhythm

- Teach children the names of the Gospel books: **Matthew**, **Mark**, **Luke**, and **John**. Show children where these books are located in the Bible. Use the following rhythm: pat your legs twice for **Matthew**, clap once for **Mark**, clap up high for **Luke**, and pat your head once for **John**. If time allows, gather kids in a circle. Invite each child to take a turn doing the rhythm while the group says the names of the Gospels together.
- **SAY** The four Bible book names you learned are called the Gospels. The Gospels tell us about Jesus' life, death, and when He came back to life. Our Bible story can be found in the books of **Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke**. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true. Today, you heard a story Jesus told called a parable. Jesus told stories to help people learn about God and His kingdom.



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

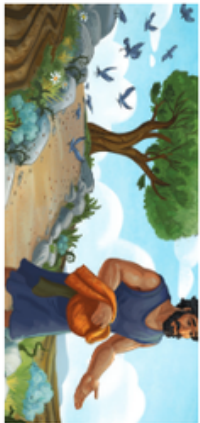




NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT



Jesus Taught in Parables

Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8

STORY POINT:

Jesus taught about God's kingdom.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

People who hear and believe God's Word will grow to be like Jesus and share His good news with others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 40:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Scan the QR code for resources to use at home!



Add Seeds

INSTRUCTIONS: Jesus taught about God's kingdom. Use a crayon to draw seeds on each type of soil Jesus mentioned in His story. Circle the good soil.

