

JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES



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

Date: **9/20/26**

1st 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
 - Kindergarten in Large Group Lesson @ 9:20.....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
- Group Game.....10 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 each child and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Invite kids to look around the room and find items that feel different. Offer examples such as hard, bumpy, soft, smooth, and rough items. Guide them to touch and compare the textures they discover. Ask questions like, “How does this feel?” or “Is this softer or harder than the other item?”
- SAY You found items that felt hard, bumpy, soft, smooth, and rough. In today’s Bible story, Jesus told a parable that described some different places seeds can fall. Places that are hard, rocky, sharp, and good. Where do you think seeds would grow best? [Allow responses.]

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Talk about your favorite stories. Introduce the word parable and explain how Jesus used parables to teach about God and His kingdom.
- SAY I love to read stories at home! In our Bible story today, we will hear special kind of story Jesus told called a parable. A parable is a story Jesus told to help people understand the kingdom of God. Jesus’ parables are found in the Bible.

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

- Guide kids to sit in a circle. Play music and encourage kids to pass a Bible around the circle. Stop the music and invite the child holding the Bible to share one thing she remembers from the story. Resume the music and repeat the process until every child has had at least one turn.
- **SAY** You heard and shared God's Word. The people who were like the good soil heard God's Word, loved it, and obeyed it! Let's pray and ask God to help us love and obey His Word. [Lead a prayer.]

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Designate areas of the room as the rocky soil, the thorns, the path where the birds ate the seeds, and the good soil. Use painter's tape to mark each area if desired. Crumble pieces of paper and encourage the kids to pretend the paper pieces are seeds as they gently toss them into the designated areas.

SAY You tossed the seeds into the rocky soil, thorns, a place with birds, and good soil. What does the good soil remind us of? [Allow responses.] It reminds us that some people are like the good soil—they hear God's Word, love it, and obey it. These people tell others the good news about Jesus. I pray we will be like the good soil and want to love and obey God.

Craft

5-7 minutes

Place a variety of seeds on a paper plate. Give each child a piece of cardstock and liquid glue. Encourage the kids to dot glue on their page or draw lines with the glue and arrange seeds on top of the glue to create a design. Set the pages aside to dry as you review the Bible story together. (Note: Remind kids not to put the seeds in their mouths, noses, and ears.)

SAY Jesus taught about God's kingdom using a type of story called a parable. In this parable, the seeds were like God's Word. Some people were like the hard path—they heard God's Word but did not understand it. Some people were like the rocky ground—they were glad to hear the Word of God, but stopped following Jesus when things got hard. Others were like the thorns and got choked by worries or money. But some people were like the good soil; they grew and grew. Those people heard God's Word, loved it, and obeyed it. They told others the good news about Jesus!





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. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.

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 sending Jesus to save us from sin. Thank You for the parables Jesus told to help us understand You and Your kingdom. I pray that your Word will help each child grow to be like Jesus. Help us share Your Word with others. In Jesus' name, 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.





Group Game

10 minutes

- Line up kids in two groups on opposite sides of the room. Whisper the phrase “Jesus taught about God’s Kingdom:” to the first child in line. Prompt that child to walk across the room to the other line and repeat the phrase to the first child in that line. Tell that child to walk back to the other side and do the same thing. Continue the relay until all kids have had a chance to hear and repeat the phrase.
- **SAY** You were like the good soil because you shared good news about Jesus. In today’s Bible story, when the seeds fell on the good soil, they grew and grew and made much fruit. Those people heard God’s Word, loved it, and obeyed it. They told others the good news about Jesus. You told others too!

Additional Activities

As Needed

Find and Match

- Prior to the session, print and cut apart the “Search and Find” printable. Hide the pictures around the room within easy reach. Play worship music as kids search the room for pictures of a man with seeds, thorns, rocks, birds, and plants. After finding the pictures, match them to the Bible Story Picture Poster. Using the pictures, work together to create a Bible story scene on the whiteboard.
- **SAY** What pictures did you find? [Allow responses.] I see a picture of a man, seeds, thorns, rocks, birds, and plants. Jesus told a story about a man who planted seeds and how thorns, rocky ground, and birds kept the seeds from growing. Jesus taught about God’s kingdom by telling a story about seeds. Seeds grow when planted in good soil. Some people are like the good soil—they hear God’s Word, love it, and obey it.





Find What Grows

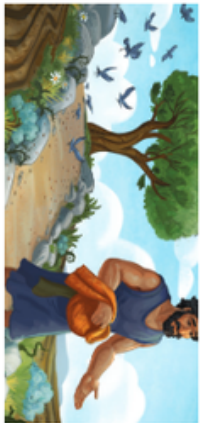
INSTRUCTIONS: Jesus told a story about seeds that were planted in different places. Circle all the pictures that show things that grow. Put an X on the things that do not grow.



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!



