

## Story Time - Read the story to the children

### Lesson 192: PARABLE OF THE SOWER

LUKE 8:4-18

A large crowd came together. People came to Jesus from every town, and he told them this story: "A farmer went out to sow seed. (to sow means to plant). While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell beside the road. It got stepped all over, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell on rock. It began to grow but then died because it had no water. Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. This seed grew, but later the weeds stopped the plant from growing by choking the plant out. The rest of the seed fell on good ground. This seed grew and made 100 times more grain." Jesus finished the story. Then he called out loudly, "You people who hear me, listen!" Jesus' followers asked him, "What does this story mean?" He said, "You have been chosen to know the secret truths about God's kingdom. But I use stories to speak to other people. I do this so that as the scriptures say, 'They will look, but they will not see, and they will listen, but they will not understand.' "This is what the story means: The seed is God's Word. Some people are like the seed that fell beside the path. They hear God's teaching, but then the devil comes and causes them to stop thinking about it. This keeps them from believing it and being saved. Others are like the seed that fell on rock. That is like the people who hear God's teaching and gladly accept it. But they don't have deep roots. They believe for a while. But when trouble comes, they turn away from God. "What about the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people who hear God's teaching, but they let the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life stop them from growing. So they never produce a crop. And what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people who hear God's teaching with a good, honest heart. They obey it and patiently produce a good crop. "No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. Instead, they put the lamp on a lampstand so that the people who come in will have enough light to see. Everything that is hidden will become clear. Every secret thing will be made known, and everyone will see it. So think carefully about what you are hearing. The people who have some understanding will receive more. But those who do not have understanding will lose even what they think they have."

## 192. PARABLE OF THE SOWER

LUKE 8:4-18



Jesus told the parable of a sower who went out to sow his seed.

LUKE 8:4-18

# 192. PARABLE OF THE SOWER

## LUKE 8:4-18

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“Whoever has, to him more will be given, and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” LUKE 8:18*

### **Review Questions**

#### True or False

**“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed...”**

1. “Some fell by the seashore, and people stepped on it with their feet, and the birds ate it.”
2. “Some fell on rock, and as soon as it started growing, it died because it didn’t have any water.”
3. “And some fell among thorns, and began to grow, and the thorns grew up with it and then the plant stopped growing because the thorns choked it.”
4. “But others fell on good ground, and grew up, and made no more grain.”
5. Jesus’ disciples told Him that they knew what this story meant.

### Questions

1. What did Jesus say the seed is? Is it the Word of God?
2. What kind of people represent the seed that fell by the side of the road? Is it people who hear God’s Word, but the devil comes and makes them to stop thinking about it, then they don’t get saved?
3. What kind of people represent the seed that falls on a rock? Is it people who receive God’s Word happily, but then when troubles come, they don’t have deep roots, so they fall away from believing?
4. What kind of people represent the seed that lands on thorns? Is this the person that hear God’s Word, but let the worries, riches and pleasures of this life get in the way, so they never produce fruit?
5. And what kind of person is the seed that falls on good ground? Is it the one that hears & receives God’s teaching with a good heart, obey it, and patiently produce a good crop?
6. What do you think a good crop means? (It means you bring even more people into God’s Kingdom, and show love, peace, joy, happiness, kindness, patience, self-control and patience in our lives!)

## Lesson 192 Visualization

### The Soils

Before class, prepare four pans with four different kinds of soil illustrating verses 5-8a. Make one pan a solid hard soil (this can be done by letting mud harden), make another pan full of rocks, make another full of weeds and finally make the last full of good, rich soil. Show each pan as you read the scriptures below:

#### LUKE 8:12 (Hard mud)

"Those by the side of the road are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."

Here we see a heart with hard soil, which is unresponsive. The seed cannot even begin to take root in such a hard soil. The devil is a subtle enemy; he makes it his business to try to hinder the work of God in our lives. He takes the Word out of the hearts of careless hearers, lest they should believe and be saved. We cannot be saved unless we believe, and the devil does all he can to keep us from believing.

#### LUKE 8:13 (Rocks)

"But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the Word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away."

Here we see a heart that receives the Word, but only for a short time. This person is one with a shallow or emotional heart. He endures only for a short time, and when the trials come along he gives up. This is the person who has never submitted their will to God or rooted himself or herself in His Word, making their soil unproductive, too shallow and thin to support the growth of a Christian life.

#### LUKE 8:14 (Weeds and/or thorns)

"And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no fruit."

This heart has heard the Word but allows the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches to choke it out. This is a heart that is too full of things to leave room for God. Material riches can be dangerous to our life with the Lord and our ability to hear and obey Him. The seed began to grow in this heart, but the soil was not worked properly. It was full of thorns making it destructive. We need to be careful that our heart is not too full for God to fit inside of us. Remember, He deserves to be first in our hearts.

#### LUKE 8:15 (Good soil)

"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

This is an honest heart, ready to receive instructions from God's Word and obey. Fruit comes from perseverance and patience in our lives. This heart hears the Word, understands it, receives it, and keeps it, just as the good soil receives and keeps the seed. The good soil is the heart that wants to hear and grow in the Lord. It wants only His way. [We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.](#)

#### LUKE 8:18

"Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

Jesus gave them many truths and urged them to listen. We must be careful how we hear the Word of God. The majority of these people were not coming to Jesus with an honest heart. Did you know that you can hear something and not really be listening? That is what happened to these people.

## Lesson 192 Optional Activity

### Telephone

Lead the children in a game of telephone. Write a message on a piece of paper (Make it a good sentence that they should have to repeat), and whisper it into the ear of the first child. Have each child whisper the message to the next until the last child recites it to the class. This message will inevitably be different. Explain to the class how easy it is to not hear things properly or completely.

You could listen to all the words of Jesus but not hear them if you do not open your heart to what He is saying and obey Him. Those who really hear are the ones who desire to find truth because Jesus is truth. The heart that is made of good soil is the heart that tells the Lord it wants to not only listen to His word but obey it, a heart that wants to be made more like Jesus. [We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.](#)

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking the Lord to make them careful hearers of His Word, allowing Jesus to change them according to His will. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.