

PARABLES

LESSON 1: PARABLE OF THE SOWER

This lesson will help children learn that God wants us to grow both physically and spiritually.

TOPICS

Choices, Following Jesus, Growth, Parables

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Parable of the Sower (Coloring Page)

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18a
NKJV

Explain to the children that as we grow up, we also need to grow spiritually in our knowledge of the Lord.

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the Parable of the Sower using the provided illustrations. As you talk about each type of soil condition, show the appropriate illustration to the children.

Introduction:

God helps us grow in many different ways both physically and spiritually. God also helps plants and animals grow, which in turn help us grow. In today's story we will hear about some seeds that had trouble growing and why. The story has a happy ending so pay close attention and see what happens to the little seeds.

Read Matthew 13:3-23 (The Parable of the Sower)

Parable of the Sower Illustrations [ATTACHED]

Discussion Questions:

1. Where did the first seeds fall? What happened to them? *(They fell on a path and a bird ate them up.)*
2. Where did the second seeds fall? What happened to them? *(These seeds fell on rocky places and were baked by the sun.)*
3. What was the fate of the third batch of seeds? *(They fell in among thorns and were choked out.)*
4. What happened to the fourth and final batch of seeds? *(They fell on good soil and grew very well.)*
5. What types of things can help us grow physically? *(Good food, exercise, plenty of rest.)*
6. What types of things are bad for us physically? *(Smoking, drugs, violence.)*
7. What types of things help us grow spiritually? *(Going to church and Sunday school, praying, worshipping God.)*

FUN TIME (15 minutes)
Seeds to Grow By (Craft)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

Start by praying to God and thanking Him for His loving kindness and for helping us grow. Give the children a healthy snack. As the children eat the snack say, "This snack feeds our body, can you name some things that will feed our spirit?"

CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 minutes)
Help Us Grow (Activity)

STORY TELLING TIPS

Story telling is an old age art that most any one can do. To become a really good storyteller takes practice. These tips will help you become a better storyteller.

When my child was a preschooler, she loved going to the library with me for story time. She sat quietly and listened to the storyteller as if she were one of the characters in the book the storyteller read. The children giggled, covered their eyes, and yelled in unison. They were excited about the story. Until my daughter attended story time, I did not realize how storytelling could be such a powerful medium to communicate with children. A great story can give a child a realistic picture right from his or her own imagination that lasts forever.

Storytelling can be done effectively through a range of visual and vocal emotions. You don't need to be highly experienced. You only need to read, use your imagination, and make funny, loud, or silly noises. Add some arm movements and face contortions and anyone can be a storytelling star.



The key is to really get into the story yourself as if you were hearing it for the first time as a small child. If you are really adventurous, not minding the adults that may be accompanying their children, you can even dance around the room in a animated fashion.

Children love to interact with the story, so whenever possible, ask the children to take part in the storytelling. For example, children can make rain noises, or they can guess which animals oink and quack.

Change your voice's reflection - loud at times and soft at others, use different voices for different characters.

Storytelling is a great way to teach the children about Jesus without spending a lot of money on supplies or materials. Kid's Sunday School Place has many stories available for usage—all you need is yourself and your commitment to be silly in the name of the Lord.

Other items you can use for a great story time:

Faces of main characters or pictures of objects in the story can be drawn on paper and attached to wooden rulers. Display these props at the appropriate time while telling the story. For example, when you tell the story of Noah, use a paper face for Noah, Mrs. Noah, and an animal or two. These visuals will help keep the children's attention.

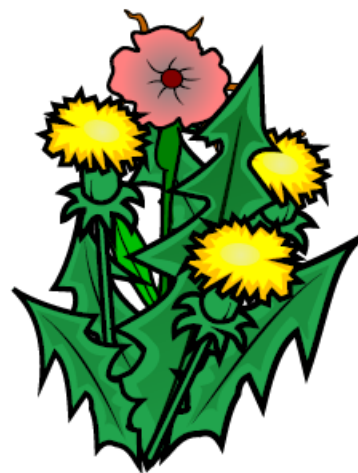
SEEDS THAT FELL ON THE PATH



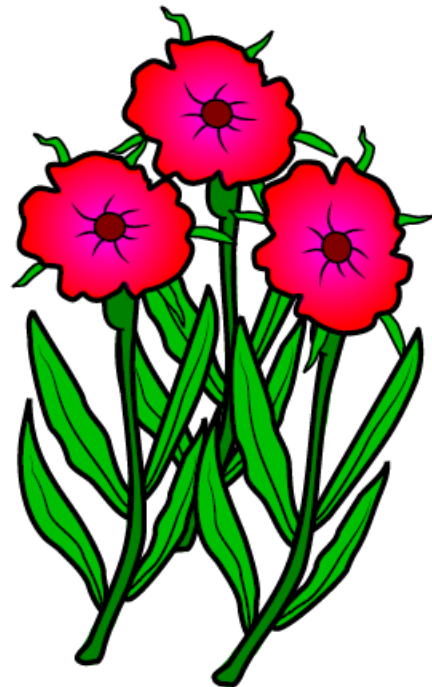
SEEDS THAT FELL ON ROCKY PLACES



SEEDS THAT FELL AMONG THORNS



SEEDS THAT FELL ON GOOD SOIL



Bring a twin size blanket or comforter to place on the floor for the children to sit on. This will make them comfortable and feel like they are in a special setting.

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS**

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN**

With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.

- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS**

Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

- **SCRAMBLED**

Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.