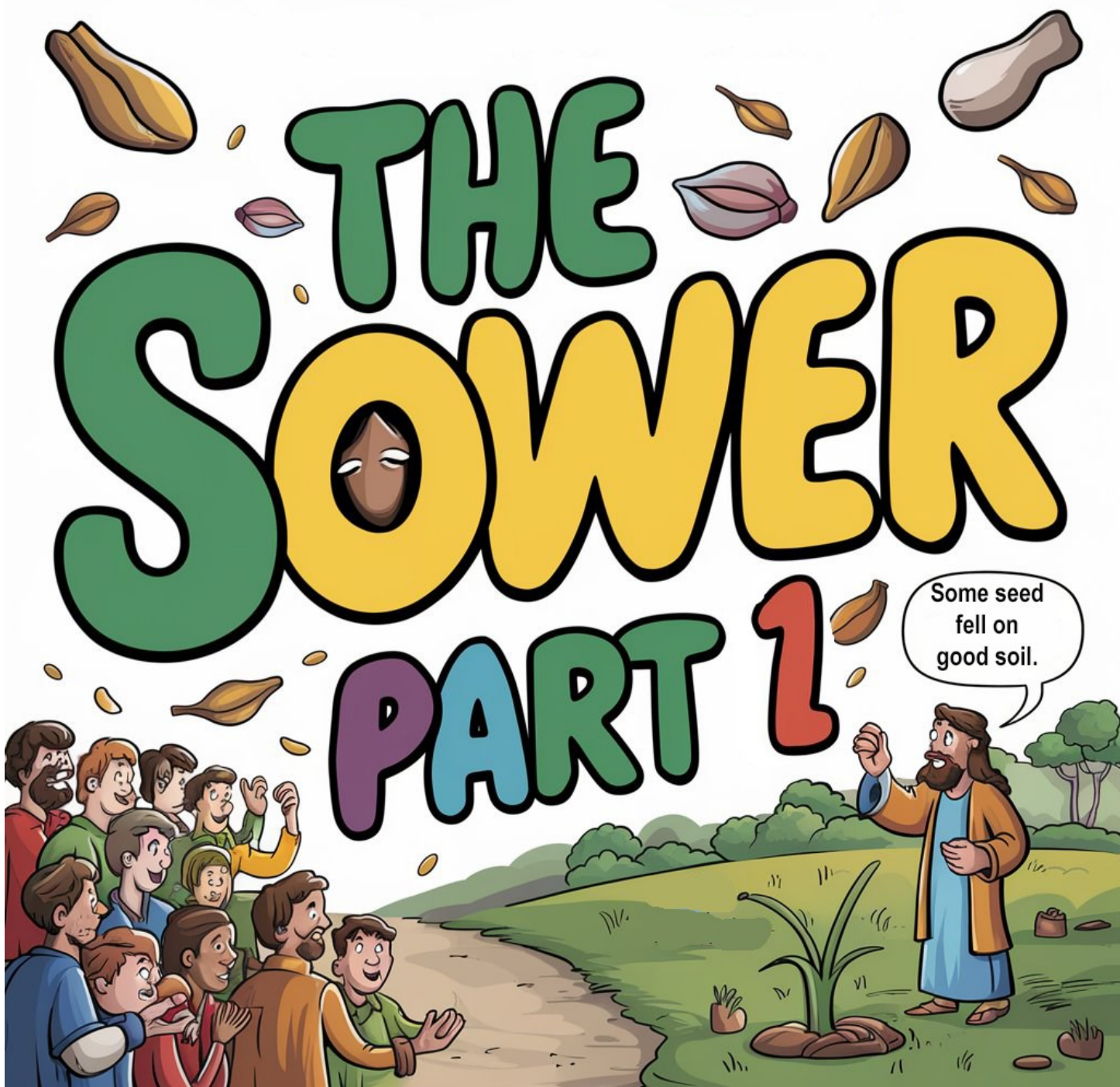
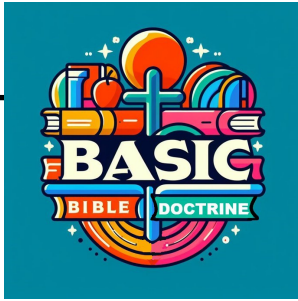






## Year 4—Lesson 23

# Sower Parable (Part 1)

### Where the Seed Won't Grow

**Jesus said** there are three types of soil (hearts) where the seeds **won't** grow and one type where the seeds **will** grow:

**Pathway** = A heart that remains trampled is hardened against God and Satan makes them not want to pay attention to God and the Word never takes root.

**Rocky** = A heart that remains shallow with an underlying rock of hardness against God and not willing to yield to Him is a heart where the Word of Good can't take root. They may believe at first, but it doesn't last long.

**Weeds** = A heart that is crowded chokes the Word of God from ever bearing fruit. This person tries to believe in God, but never makes any time for Him, but acts like they are too busy.

**Fertile Soil** = A heart that receives God's Word with joy and grows to maturity and fruitfulness.

Jesus said that if you want to be like good dirt and have the seed of God's truth grow in your lives, then you have to make sure that the devil doesn't make you forget about God and you have to make sure that you're spending time with God and learning more about Him so that God's truth can make good roots in your life.

**Ask:** What are some things we can do to spend time with God and learn more about Him? (Read your Bible, pray, go to church, talk about Him with other people, etc.)

### Game: Scattering Seeds

**Materials Needed:** A bucket full of ping pong balls (*or wads of paper*)

**Procedure:** Divide your students into two teams. Make a line down the center of your play area. Each team must stay on its own side of the line and must lay, sit, or kneel on the ground.

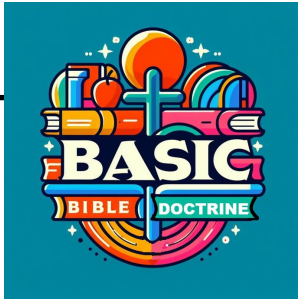
When you're ready to start, dump a load of ping pong balls or small wads of paper on the center line and start a timer for 3-5 minutes. The teams flick the balls or paper wads across the line into the opposite team's area. When the time is up, all students stop and count how many balls or paper wads are on their side of the line. The team with the fewest balls or paper wads wins that round.

**Explain:** that the balls or paper wads are the seeds of our belief in Jesus that we want to share with other people, so we want to make sure we're spreading as many seeds away from us as we can. (*Play as long as time allows.*)

### Power Point

Keep a  
tender heart  
towards  
God.





## Year 4—Lesson 23

# Sower Parable (Part 1)

### Sower Skit

**Text:** Mark 4:3-8

**Characters Needed:**

The Narrator

Four Actors (Non-speaking parts)

**Summary:** As the narrator reads each passage, the four actors will act it out. Have the actors take turns being the “seed” that gets planted while the other three will be the birds, the rocks, the weeds, and the rows of fertile soil. The four actors stand in a line up front and wait for the action to start.

**Narrator:** “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it.” (NLT)

**Seed:** Jumps into the center of stage as if it is a seed being thrown and immediately hunkers down into a ball.

**Birds:** The other three actors put their hands under their arm pits and stick their elbows out as if they are wings. The say: “Caw! Caw! Caw!” as they surround the seed, pick it up and carry it away. *(All four actors stand back at attention in a line up front)*

**Narrator:** “Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died.”

**Rocks:** This time 3 actors jump into the center of the stage and hunker down as if they are rocks. The 4<sup>th</sup> actor then jumps into the middle of the rocks and hunkers down as if it has been thrown there by the farmer. Actor 4 slowly puts their arms out as if they are growing. They grow up and up and then, suddenly wither and die. *(All four actors stand back at attention in a line up front)*

**Narrator:** “Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain.”

**Weeds:** Have 3 actors jump into the center and hunker down as if they are weed seeds. Then, the 4<sup>th</sup> actor is the good seed and jumps into the middle of the weeds. The 4<sup>th</sup> actor puts out their arms as if they are growing. They slowly grow up and up, and suddenly, the weeds put out their arms and begin to grow. The weeds grow over to and around the good seed plant and begin to choke it. *(All four actors stand back at attention in a line up front)*

**Narrator:** “Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

**Fertile Soil:** Have 3 actors lie down on the floor in straight rows. The good seed will jump into the middle of the rows, hunker down, and then begin to grow up and up and up and beam with happiness. *(All four actors will again stand back up front at attention and then the skit will end.)*

**Leader Say:** Listen closely to our lesson today, because you’ll discover this story is about much more than planting seeds. It’s about letting God’s Word, the whole Bible, change and improve our lives.



