

Year 4—Lesson 24

Sower Parable (Part 2)

Thirty-Sixty-Hundred

Ask: What is the ultimate goal of a farmer? (*To produce food.*) The more their crops grow, the more food they produce. An apple tree planted in rocky soil is not going to grow well, but an apple tree in good soil is going to produce a huge crop. When our faith is rooted in good soil we can produce a crop as well. God will use us to create fruit by spreading our faith to others. We pray for our friends. We look for opportunities to love and serve those in need. We share our faith by bringing friends to church and by telling them about Jesus.

God gave us the Bible to help us to cultivate good soil in our hearts. Jesus gave us these parables for the same reason. If we listen closely to these stories, we'll discover truth about God, about life, and about how we should live for God. The more we learn from these parables, the more our faith will grow. It's easy to get distracted by the cares of the world and forget to spend time with God, but God wants us to make Him number one in our lives. He wants the Bible to be the most important book we read. He wants us to make praying to Him our top priority. If we make God number one, our faith will grow like the seed in the good soil. We will grow strong and bear fruit for Jesus.

Heart Checkup: What soil do you think you are most like now? Why? What changes do you need to make this week so you can have a heart that pleases God?

Object Lesson

ITEMS NEEDED: A potted plant

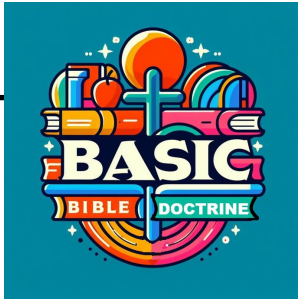
Ask: Can anyone tell me what's missing from this pot? There are no rocks in the pot. There are no weeds or thorns. There's no gravel, no cement, nothing but good soil. This plant is growing and thriving because it has everything it needs to grow and thrive - and nothing to stop its growth.

Jesus gave us some stories called parables, including the Parable of the Sower. If we let these stories penetrate our hearts, like the seed that penetrated the soil in this pot, they will fertilize and nourish our faith. The more we listen to the words of Jesus, the more we grow in wisdom and in faith.

Memory Verse

James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."
NIV





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Lesson Introduction Activities

Lesson Opening: The Bible is full of metaphors involving planting or agriculture. As such, there are many coinciding crafts or openers that focus on seeds, soil, or plants. As you begin the lesson on the sower and the seeds, consider some elements of soil and plant life.

Here are some activities to get kids thinking...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- **Seed matching:** look at pictures (or actual examples) of various types of seeds. Try to match the seed with the flower or fruit that it grows into.
- **Soil:** take a “tour” of different regions and the soil that is characteristic of various areas. Discuss what is needed for soil to be healthy, and how important it is for plants to have quality soil.
- **Take a nature walk:** Go outside and look for flowers and plant parts. Identify weeds, if seen, and discuss the differences between flowers and weeds.
- **Gardening:** do you have a garden or plant? This is a great opportunity to discuss the different things that might grow, or how you can grow plants in a garden.
- **Learn a new song:** Such as “Inch by Inch” (*The Garden Song on YouTube*) or “Grow, Grow, Grow” (*Lyrics & Motions on YouTube*) to discuss planting and growth principles.



Explain: Today we will be discussing one of the parables, or stories, that Jesus told. It is one that was confusing to the people who heard it, so Jesus gave a special explanation. We can think about what it means for us today and how to apply God’s Word to our lives.

Ask: What does a plant need in order to grow? How do you think we as Christians might be like plants?





