

**STORY**

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed - Matthew 13

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Dear Holy Spirit, help me to bring the children in my care to pray daily, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Make me and the children aware of how important it is for us all to continuously use of Thy holy Word. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*sower* - planter

*fowls* - birds

*scorched* - burned

*hundredfold* - each seed produced a hundred seeds

*waxed gross* - grown hard

*wicked one* - Satan-also called the enemy

*tares* - weeds-unwanted plants

**OUTER AIM**

Show how the Savior uses a familiar scene from spring planting to reveal why His Word experiences different growth patterns.

**INNER AIM**

Lead the children to pray that the Lord through His Word would make their hearts good ground for the seed of His Word.

**BACKGROUND**

*Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 2, pp. 151 ff.*

Draw on the children's knowledge of gardening. In Jesus' day the farmer (sower) scattered the seed by hand and it fell on many different kinds of soil-stony, shallow, deep, or on the path itself. Jesus builds on the known, the familiar to teach spiritual truths. In this parable, He reveals to the disciples the difference between themselves and the many others in Israel.

vs. 10-17 Why teach (explain) to the disciples and hide from the scribes and Pharisees? Isaiah already gave the answer. The unbelievers have hardened their hearts against God's Word, will not listen; so the Lord turns away from them and hides knowledge from them.

vs. 19 by the wayside-seed never took root, for it fell on hardened soil.

vs. 20 stony ground-good beginnings, as the soil warmed quickly, but there was no depth.

vs. 22 thorns-external cares and trouble choked the tender plant.

vs. 24 good ground-not natural to sinful mankind; it is ground prepared and created by the Holy Spirit through the Word itself; prepared and sustained by the Word until the time of harvest.



## **STUDENT PRAYER** TLH #284 1 and 6

Father of Mercies, in Thy Word What endless glories shine;  
Forever be Thy name adorned For these celestial lines.  
Divine Instructor, gracious Lord, Be Thou forever near;  
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word and view my Savior here.

## **PRESENTATION**

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand it.

## **APPLICATION**

How dependent we humans are on the Word of God! That fact should lead us again and again into that Word. Our daily prayer should be, "Through Your Word, O Lord, create and maintain my faith so that I bring forth fruit abundantly until the day of eternal harvest."

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

### **Lower**

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.  
I Sam. 3:9 - Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears.

### **Middle**

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.  
I Sam. 3:9 - Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears.  
John 8:31-32 - If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.

### **Upper**

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.  
I Sam. 3:9 - Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears.  
John 8:31-32 - If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.  
Psalm 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

## **HYMN CHOICES**

How Precious Is the Book Divine - TLH #285 vs. 1 and 6  
God's Word is our Great Heritage - TLH #283

# The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Matthew 13:1-23



BEHOLD, A SOWER  
WENT FORTH  
TO SOW,



## The Story

Jesus wanted to tell the people about different ways some people lose their faith. He wanted people to be careful so that they wouldn't lose their faith too. Jesus knew that this was hard for them to understand so he told them a story or parable that would make it easy for them to understand. The parable went like this:

One day there was a farmer who went out and was planting his field by throwing seeds on the ground. Some of the seeds that he threw landed on the hard path and birds came down and ate those seeds.

Some of the seeds landed on ground with lots of rocks. Those seeds grew at first but because there wasn't much dirt they dried up and died when the sun came out.

Some of the seeds landed in thorns and when these plants started to grow the thorns choked them and they died.

Some of the seeds landed on good ground and when they

grew they made many more seeds.

Jesus' disciples didn't know what Jesus meant when He told the story so He told them its meaning. When somebody hears the Word of God and doesn't understand it then the devil will take them. This is what Jesus meant by the seeds that fell on the road.

When somebody hears the Word of God but loses it again when he has troubles or people make fun of him for believing, then this person is like the seeds that fell in the rocky dirt.

When somebody hears the Word of God and believes it for a while but then falls away because they want to have things in the world like money or to be famous, this person is like the seeds that were choked by the thorns.

When somebody hears the Word of God and believes it, these people are like the seeds that fell on good ground.

***Jesus told a parable that describes the enemies working against the Word of God.***

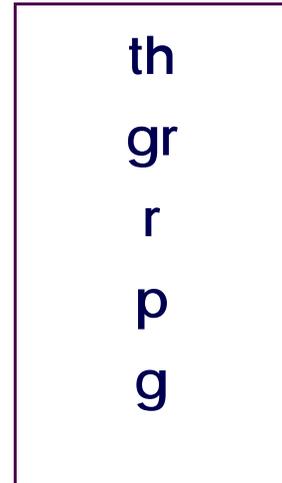
**Activity One** - Write in the missing letters of the places the seed fell. The correct letters are in the box.

1. \_\_\_ath

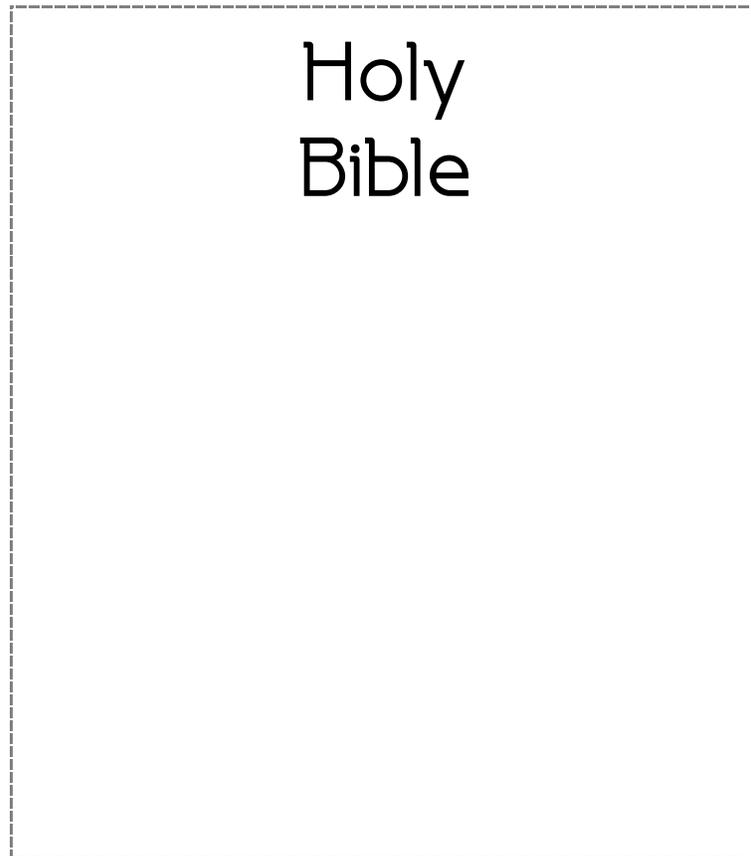
2. \_\_\_ocks

3. \_\_\_ \_\_\_orns

4. \_\_\_ood \_\_\_ \_\_\_ound



**Activity Two** - Connect the dashed lines to see where we find God's Word. Draw a cross on the Bible also.



## *Jesus has taken away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.*

### Passage

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### Hymn - TLH #49 v. 1, 2

Almighty God, Thy Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

### Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We ask You for a strong faith which grows in a heart filled with Your love like the seed that fell on good ground. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word. Please help us spread the Word of forgiveness to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

# The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Matthew 13:1-23



BEHOLD, A SOWER  
WENT FORTH  
TO SOW,



## The Story

Jesus was speaking to a large group of people. He wanted to tell them of different ways that some people lose their faith. Jesus knew that this was hard for them to understand, so He told them a story, or parable, that would make it easy for them to understand. The parable went like this:

One day there was a farmer who went out and was planting his field by throwing seeds on the ground. Some of the seeds that he threw landed on the hard path and birds came down and ate those seeds.

Some of the seeds landed on ground with lots of rocks. Those seeds grew at first but because there wasn't much dirt they dried up and died when the sun came out.

Some of the seeds landed in thorns and when these plants started to grow the thorns choked them and they died.

Some of the seeds landed on good ground and when they grew they made many plants which then

made more and more seeds.

Jesus disciples didn't know what Jesus meant when He told the story, so He told them its meaning.

When somebody hears the Word of God and doesn't understand it, the devil will take them to be his in unbelief. This is what Jesus meant by the seeds that fell on the path.

When somebody hears the Word of God but loses it again when he has troubles, or when people make fun of him for believing, then this person is like the seeds that fell in the rocky dirt.

When somebody hears the Word of God and believes it for a while but then falls away because this person wants to have things in the world like money, or this person wants to be famous, he is like the seeds that were choked by the thorns.

When somebody hears the Word of God, understands and believes it, these people are like the seeds that fell on good ground.

***Jesus told a parable that describes the enemies working against the Word of God.***

**Activity One** - Match what happens to the seed sown in each place. Write the correct letter next to the number.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1.    ____ Path        | A.    The seeds grow very well and make many more seeds. |
| 2.    ____ Rocky Soil  | B.    The seeds start to grow, are choked and die.       |
| 3.    ____ Thorns      | __C.    The seeds are eaten by birds.                    |
| 4.    ____ Good Ground | D.    The seeds dry up from the sun.                     |

**Activity Two** - Fill in the blanks of the meanings of the parable. Use the words in the Word Box.

Devil	money	God's Word	believe	troubles
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1.    \_\_\_\_\_ is the seed.
2.    The birds eating the seed from the path is the \_\_\_\_\_.
3.    The seed on the rocky soil are like those who hear God's Word until \_\_\_\_\_ come then lose their faith.
4.    The seed in the thorns are like those who hear God's Word until \_\_\_\_\_ and being famous get in the way.
5.    Good ground are those who \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.

*Jesus has taken away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.*

## Passages

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!

## Hymn - TLH #49 v. 1, 2

Almighty God, Thy Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We ask You for a strong faith which grows in a heart filled with Your love like the seed that fell on good ground. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word. Please help us spread the Word of forgiveness to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

# The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

This stained glass window shows "The Sower and the Seed".

Do you remember that parable?

Why would it be a good picture for display in a church?

## Prayer

Dear Lord,

We know that we are sinful people. Help us to be good listeners today when we read the story or parable You told about the sower and the seed. Please do not let anything distract us while we learn about You. Thank You for sending Your Son to earth so we can go to heaven. Amen.

## The Story - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. {2} And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

{3} Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. {4} "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. {5} "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

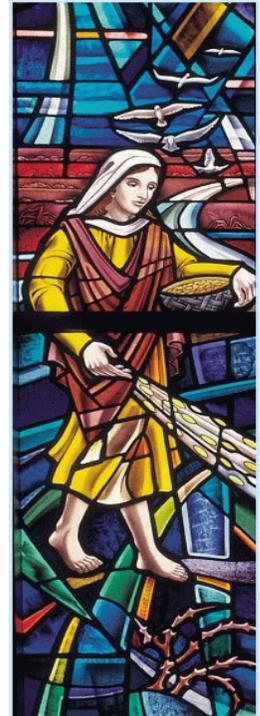
{6} "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because

they had no root they withered away.

{7} "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

{8} "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. {9} "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(18) "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: {19} "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.



{20} "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; {21} "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

{22} "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who

hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

{23} "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

**What the Story Tells Us** - Retell the story by drawing a picture to show each of the types of ground and the plant life that lives there.

1. by the wayside	2. on the stony ground
3. among the thorns	4. on the good ground

**Outer Aim** - Jesus told a parable that describes the enemies working against the Word of God.

**What God's Word Tells Us** - Match the earthly pictures with the heavenly meaning of this parable as explained by Jesus.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ The seed refers to ...              | A. ... the one who receives the word but faith is choked out by the world.                            |
| 2. _____ The birds represent ...             | B. ... the ones who hear and understand the word and bear fruit.                                      |
| 3. _____ The seed at the wayside is ...      | C. ... the wicked one.  |
| 4. _____ The seed on the stony ground is ... | D. ... the word of the kingdom of heaven.   |
| 5. _____ The seed among the thorns is ...    | E. ... the ones that hear and don't understand it.  |
| 6. _____ The seed on the good ground is ...  | F. ... the ones who first receive the word with joy but when troubles arise they immediately stumble. |

**Inner Aim** - Jesus has taken away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.

**Passages** - Look up these passages in the Bible, fill in the blanks and discuss the questions.

Romans 10:17 So then \_\_\_\_\_ comes by \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
by the \_\_\_\_\_.

*How do we receive faith according to this passage?*

1 Samuel 3:9 ... 'Speak, \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

*Who gives us our instructions for life according to this passage?*

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you \_\_\_\_\_ in My \_\_\_\_\_, you are My \_\_\_\_\_ indeed. {32} "And you shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall make you \_\_\_\_\_."

*What command does God give us in this passage?*

*What will the "truth" which Jesus speaks of do for us?*

## Hymn - TLH #49

Almighty God, Thy Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

Oft as the precious seed is sown,  
Thy quickening grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving power may know.

## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We ask You for a strong faith which grows in a heart filled with Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word. Please help us spread the Word of forgiveness and salvation to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

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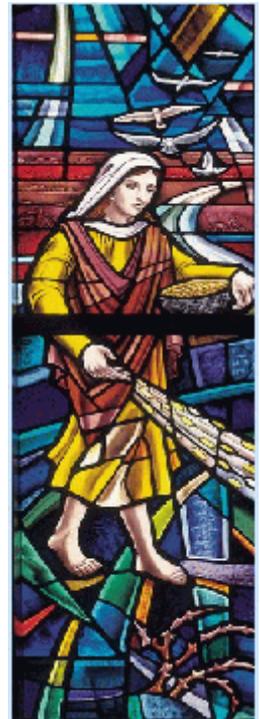
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**Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable that describes the enemies working against the Word of God.**

**What the Story Tells Us** - Review the lesson by answering these questions.

1. What did Jesus do when the multitudes gathered around Him?
2. What is a parable?
3. What parable did we study today?
4. Where did the seeds fall?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.

5. What is the meaning of this parable?
- a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
6. What is meant by Jesus' words in verse 9?

**Inner Aim - Jesus has taken away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.**

**What God's Word Tells Us -** Look up the following Bible passages , fill in the blanks and answer the questions about them.

Romans 10:17 So then \_\_\_\_\_ comes by \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
by the \_\_\_\_\_.

*How do we get faith according to this passage?*

1 Samuel 3:9 ... 'Speak, \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

*Who gives us our instructions for life according to this passage?*

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you \_\_\_\_\_

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*What command does God give us in this passage?*

*What will the "truth" which Jesus speaks of do for us?*

**Passages** - Use the 3 passages above for study, discussion and memorization.

**Hymn** - TLH #49

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Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

Oft as the precious seed is sown,  
Thy quickening grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving power may know.

**Prayer**

Dear Father in Heaven,

We ask You for a strong faith which grows in a heart filled with Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word. Please help us spread the Word of forgiveness and salvation to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.