

**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