

Parable: The Faithful Sower

The Building Blocks of the Lesson

Bible Reference



Matthew 13: 1-8 & 18 - 23

Memory Verse:

Matthew 13: 23a

Objectives



Learn that:

*God wants us to be faithful and steadfast in our faith even in the face of evil

*God wants us to sow (his word)

Theological Themes



Steadfast faith, trust and

(your ideas, too) _____.

Music



“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” - WOV #713

“They Will Know Us By Our Love” - WOV #

Catechism Connection



*Apostle's Creed – “I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe . . . but the Holy Spirit.”

*Third Commandment – “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy” – It takes time to grow things. Everything is in God's timing.

Additional Resources



Ask a local farmer or gardener to talk to your class about planting and growing. Perhaps the expert is in your class?!?!? Check with your local cooperative extension office. They often will give you information about planting and free seeds to plant. Check at the local library for resources that talk about how other cultures view planting and reaping.

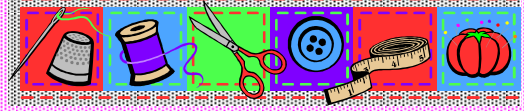
Context



Jesus helped everyone understand his point with references that were familiar to them. Living in a society built around agriculture, most understood stories that used illustrations about planting. Farmers would also understand sowing extravagantly and even in some locations that appear to be “bad”. It is God’s business what grows.

It is also true that those who had already rejected him, (those who were more educated) heard these parables, and did not understand his message.

Activity



Go for a walk outdoors, in a field, wooded area or meadow. Look for examples of all four types of soil described in the parable and plants trying to grow in each. Talk to each other about what you see and what kind of soil you heart is.

OR

Plant a tomato plant in class using seeds, soil from your yard and any container that you can recycle (egg carton, old bucket, broken coffee mug, etc.). Care for it at home. Plan a day when you can share the fruit in class. Perhaps you can include the students’ families in this class sharing. Talk about what it takes for plants to flourish. Compare that to your faith.

??? Discuss /Ask???

- *What four types of soil did the parable talk about?
- *What happened to the seed on each type of soil?
- *What kind of soil is your heart?
 - *What are some of the thorns, rocks or paths that hamper your seeds from growing?
- *How can you improve your soil?
- *What does God sow extravagantly, even on the soil that probably will be unproductive?
- *How often do we misjudge what is good soil and what is not?

Sending



Talk with someone in your family or neighborhood who enjoys gardening. Ask them to share with you about their hobby.

Prayer



Loving God, let my heart be good soil, always.
Amen.