



Sunday 19th April 2020

Welcome to the next instalment of our Family Resources! We hope you find some inspiration in this pack to help you delve into this story as a family.

Today we're starting with the story. Why not watch this video together:



Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

⁴ Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. ² He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

³ "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. ⁴ As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. ⁸ 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!" ⁹ Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

¹⁰ Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant.

¹¹ He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret^[a] of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders, ¹² so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

'When they see what I do,
they will learn nothing.
When they hear what I say,
they will not understand.
Otherwise, they will turn to me
and be forgiven.'^[b]"

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? ¹⁴ The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. ¹⁵ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. ¹⁶ The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. ¹⁸ The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. ²⁰ And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Let's talk about it: who do you think the sower is?

Jesus is the sower and He sows His seed wherever He goes. The sower is generous and sends His seed everywhere, no matter what type of soil it lands on. That is true with God. He doesn't hold back. He never holds back from us. We can trust that God is good and He gives generously to us. God calls us to be generous and to not hold back, too.

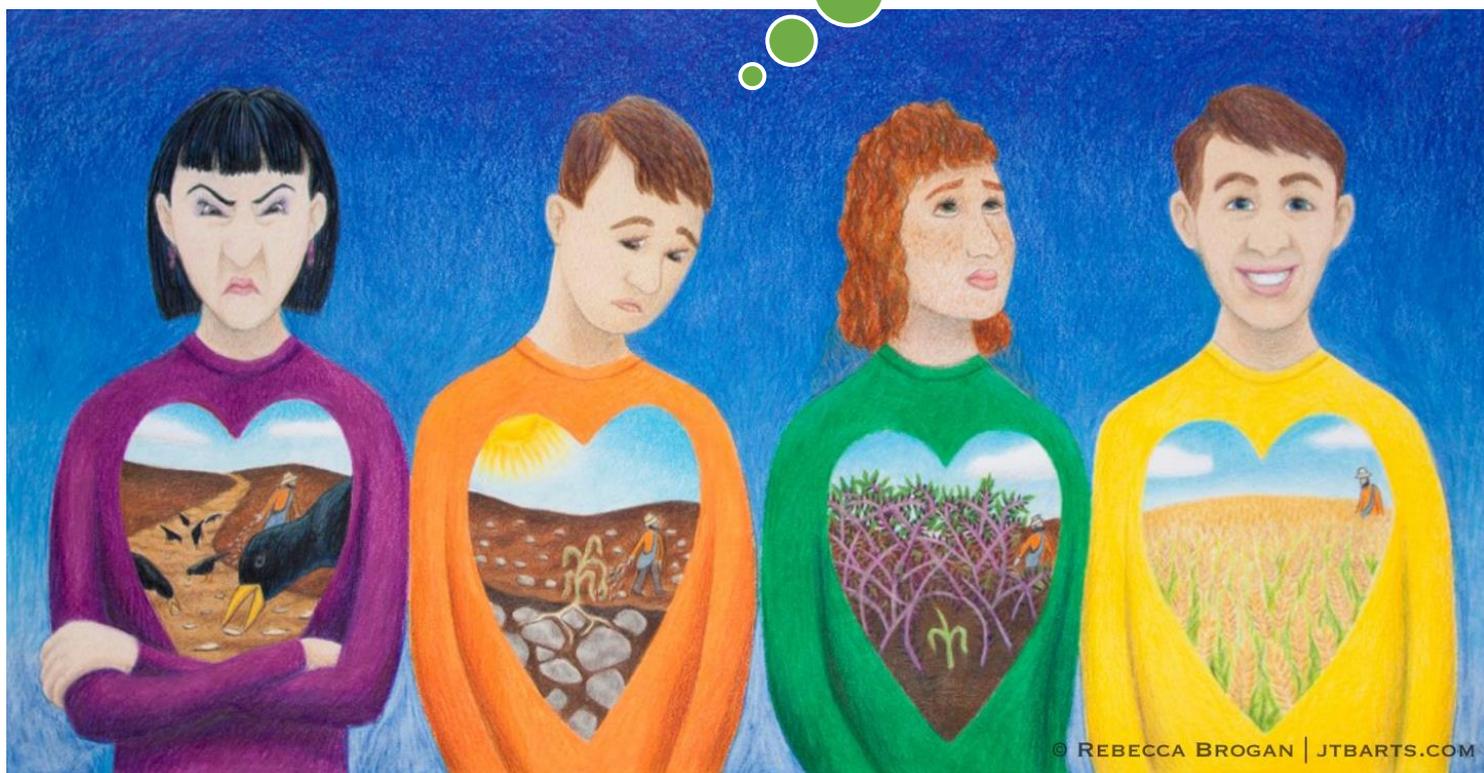
Let's talk about it: but what is His seed?

Jesus tells us that the seed is God's word. It is the truth about Jesus and His kingdom. You have heard it called the Good News of the gospel!

Let's talk about it: what do the different types of soil or ground represent?

We are like the different types of soil or ground.

What kind of soil are we?
It depends on our hearts.
We can check up on our hearts by seeing how we feel about Jesus.



Activities:

Play a game! This one's called **Seed Pass**. You will need some seeds (or other small round items), a pair of chopsticks, a timer and two small dishes. Players take it in turns to see how many seeds they can transfer from one dish to another in 30 seconds. **Tip:** to make it more challenging put some distance between the dishes. The winner is the player who transfers the highest number of seeds.

Let's get active and go for a **Soil and Seed Walk**: on your walk today have a look for the different types of ground from the story. Talk about what each type represents. You could take some seeds with you and let the children put them in the different types of ground.

Did somebody say snack time? Let's make some **Dirt Cup Desserts!** Decorate a small cup with words from the Bible lesson today. Let children put a small amount of chocolate pudding in the bottom and sprinkle it with crushed up cookies to look like the soil in today's lesson. Gummy Worms or sunflower seeds could be added to their snack!



Seek God and Pray!

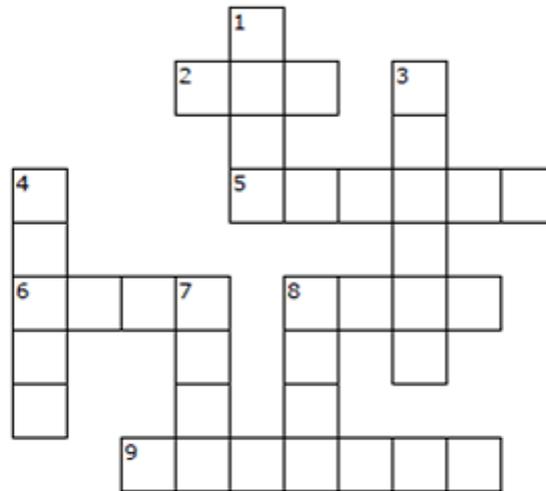
Jesus the sower
whatever I am today, whatever the mix
of path, rock, thorns or soil
help me to become good ground
for you, for your word and for your presence.
Amen.

The Parable of the Sower



But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a

Based on Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
5. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
6. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
8. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
9. Not deep

DOWN

1. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
3. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
4. Covered with stones
7. A way made by or for people walking on the ground
8. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow

PATH
SHALLOW

CROP
FARMER

SOIL
SEED

THORNS
SOW

ROOT
ROCKY

