

Lesson Plan *The Parable of the Sower*

Theme	The Parable of the Sower
Stages	Key Stage 1 P3-P4
Learning Objectives	<p>The Revelation of God -The Bible is the word of God</p> <p>The Life of Jesus -Jesus used parables to teach</p> <p>The Christian Church -An awareness of the meaning of worship and prayer</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>Pupils should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -recognise the Bible is the holy word of God -illustrate the wonder of God’s creation -retell a parable -recognise that people can worship and pray at any time -suggest ways in which people care, share, and pray together today
Connections to Living Learning Together	<p>Strand 2, Unit 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Working with others -Knowing how to be a good friend -Understanding how to take responsibility in a group or class
Scripture References	Mark 4:1-9, <i>The Parable of the Sower</i>
Lesson Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction Activity: 4 Plantings & Discussion 2. Scripture Reading 3. Circle Time Discussion 4. Partner Activity: Craft & Retelling 5. Independent work 6. Music Closing Activity
Links to Wider Curriculum	<p>This lesson plan enhances several other curriculum areas:</p> <p>Reading--Scripture Reading Writing--Independent Work Geography & Nature--4 Plantings activity Science--4 Plantings & Discussion Art & Craft--Craft & Retelling activity Effective Listening and Good Communication--Class Discussion time History--Discussion, The Bible Drama--Parable Retelling Music--Closing Song</p>

Teaching Approach

Introduction Activity: 4 Plantings & Discussion

Prepare materials ahead of time, planning for the number of groups in your classroom.

Materials needed (multiply each by total number of groups):

- 4 large seeds
- piece of cardboard
- 3 cups
- water
- dirt
- rocks or gravel
- toothpicks
- bird cutout or puppet (one for the teacher)

Place students in small groups of 4-5 students. Explain to students that they will need to work together with their group members to follow your directions as best they can. Tell students they will be planting 4 different seeds and at the end of this activity you are going to ask them which planting they think would be most successful.

Plant 1: Give each group 1 seed and a flat piece of cardboard. Tell them they need to “plant” their seed so it will grow into a plant.

Give them a minute or two to do this or try to figure it out. Then walk around the room and using either a paper cutout of a bird (see handout below) or bird puppet, “eat” each group’s seeds.

Plant 2: Give each group a small cup, a bag full of small rocks or gravel, and one seed. Tell them they need to “plant” their seed so it will grow into a plant. Give them a minute to two to try to figure this out.

Plant 3: Give each group a small cup, a pile of toothpicks, and one seed. Tell them they need to “plant” their seed so it will grow into a plant. Give them a minute to two to try to figure this out.

Plant 4: Give each group a small cup, a small amount of dirt, a small amount of water, and one seed. Tell them they need to “plant” their seed so it will grow into a plant. Give them a minute to two to try to figure this out.

After groups have finished the planting activity, hold a whole class discussion. Questions to ask students:

Which plant of the 4 you planted do you think will be most successful? Why?

What do you know about plants and seeds?

What do plants need in order to grow?

Be sure that students understand the conditions needed for plants to grow. Either keep the “good” plants in the classroom in sunlight where the class can monitor them or allow students to take them home. Remind students that God created the Earth and all plants, and he has created specific conditions for plants to grow.



Scripture Reading

Before beginning scripture reading, remind students that Jesus loved to teach people using parables. A parable is a simple story that is used to teach a lesson. In this parable, Jesus talks about a farmer sowing seeds. Sowing seeds means planting seeds. In this time period, farmers did not have machinery to help them sow their seeds. Farmers would carry seeds in a pouch or bag and scatter them by hand.

Luke 8:5-15

5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road; it was tramped down and the birds ate it.

6 Other seed fell in the gravel; it sprouted, but withered because it didn't have good roots.

7 Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it.

8 Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop. "Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

9 His disciples asked, "Why did you tell this story?"

10 He said, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom - you know how it works. There are others who need stories. But even with stories some of them aren't going to get it: Their eyes are open but don't see a thing, Their ears are open but don't hear a thing.

11 "This story is about some of those people. The seed is the Word of God.

12 The seeds on the road are those who hear the Word, but no sooner do they hear it than the Devil snatches it from them so they won't believe and be saved.

13 "The seeds in the gravel are those who hear with enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm doesn't go very deep. It's only another fad, and the moment there's trouble it's gone.

14 "And the seed that fell in the weeds - well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun.

15 "But the seed in the good earth - these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there's a harvest.

Circle Time Discussion Questions for Class:

- In Jesus' parable, did all of the seeds grow into healthy plants? Why or why not?
- What were some of the different types of soil and conditions that the seeds fell on?
- How can you connect these different types of soil and conditions to the plantings you did at the beginning of class today?
- In this parable, what does the seed represent?
- In the story, what happened to the seed that fell on good soil?
- When Jesus explains the meaning of the parable, what does he say are some reasons that some people don't grow after they hear the word of God?
- What lesson is Jesus trying to teach people in this parable?
- How does Jesus want you to grow?
- What are ways that the word of God can help you grow and help you be a better person?

Partner Activity: Craft & Retelling *The Parable of the Sower*

Materials needed:

- 1 paper bag per student
- construction paper
- scissors
- markers or crayons

Place students in partners or allow them to choose their partners. Give each student a paper bag and distribute other supplies as needed. Students can share paper, markers, etc.

Tell students they are going to be farmers and create a pouch for sowing their seeds. They are to decorate their pouch (the paper bag) and also to create seeds. Students can tear up construction paper, cut out circles, decorate papers, etc. They just need to create a few seeds to place in their pouch. Give students a time limit according to your schedule.

Once students have finished their pouches and seeds, they are to take turns retelling *The Parable of the Sower* to their partner using their pouch and seeds to act it out.

Name _____

Checking for Understanding *The Parable of the Sower* version 1

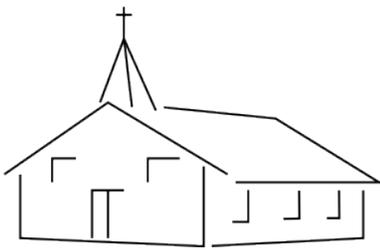
1. Circle pictures of things that will help your heart grow closer to



God.
Cros
s out
pictu
res



of things that will not help you.



2. What can you do to help your heart grow with Jesus?

3. What can you do to help others grow with Jesus?

Name _____

Checking for Understanding *The Parable of the Sower* version 2

1. Think about things that will help you grow closer to God. List 4 or 5 and then draw a picture for each.

	List items in this column	Draw a picture for each item
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

2. What can you do to help your heart grow with Jesus?

3. What can you do to help others grow with Jesus?

4. Write a prayer that you can say to Jesus or that you and your classmates might say together to help you grow closer to Jesus and to ask Jesus to help you remember these things.

Music Closing Activity

As a fun closing activity, gather as a class and sing this song. Explain to the students that this relates to our study today about how we can grow closer to God as we read our Bible and pray.

Song Lyrics:

Read your Bible.
Pray every day (repeat 3 times).
Read your Bible.
Pray every day.
And you'll grow, grow, grow (repeat 3 times).
Read your Bible.
Pray every day.
And you'll grow, grow, grow.

Verse 2:

Don't read your Bible.
Forget to pray (repeat 3 times).
Don't read your Bible.
Forget to pray.
And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink (repeat 3 times).
Don't read your Bible.
Forget to pray.
And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.
Repeat 1st verse.

To get the kids involved, have them start singing the song in a squatting position. Then as they sing the lines where they "grow," they slowly incrementally stretch back up to full height and even on to tiptoes with arms outstretched. Then for verse 2, they "shrink" by crouching lower and lower as the song goes on.

[Link to video of song to learn the rhythm](#)