

Lesson: Jesus and The Parable of the Soils

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Use this free lesson plan to teach your children's church about the parable of the soils. This classic Bible story is where Jesus explains the different responses that people have to his teachings. It teaches the importance of receiving God's word with the right attitude in our hearts. Often times this is called the "Parable of the Sower." With some modifications this Bible lesson would also work for a Children's Sunday School class. Be sure to check out our additional [learning activities about the parable of the sower](#).

Bible Story: Jesus' Parable of the Soils

Scripture: Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23

Target Age Group: Age 7 – 12 (U.S. 1st – 6th Grade)

Time: 30 Minutes

Learning Context: Children's Church

Printer Friendly Bible Lesson: [[print_link](#)] this lesson plan

You Can Help: Please leave your feedback and suggestions for this lesson plan. Others will benefit from your ideas. [Click here to respond](#)

Learning Objectives: After this lesson...

- Children express their knowledge about the 4 types of soil.
- Children express what they learned happened to the seeds on each soil.
- Children learn to express the spiritual lesson Jesus had from this parable.

Material Needed:

- Bible: Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23. Highlight the important points from the passage beforehand to ensure specific explanation of them.
- Visual Aid: 4 cups of different soils; 4 of the same seeds; cut out of the sun, birds, twigs (as thorns), small group of fake flowers.
- Craft idea: cups of good planting soil and marigold seeds for each cup

Teaching Plan "Parable of the Soils"

Establish the lesson by briefly explaining the reason Jesus used parables in His teaching. Display the 4 cups of different soil in a place where all the children can see them and tell them what kind of soil resides in each one.

Prior to reading the passages, divide the children into four groups and assign a type of soil to each group. Ask them to listen for all the facts they learn about their soil and Jesus' explanation about it.

Read (and Recap) Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23. As each soil is discussed, pick up that cup and use the sun, birds, twigs, or fake flowers to show what happened to the soil and seed as it began to sprout. When giving Jesus' explanation, lift that cup again with the object that caused the problems for the seed to take root.

Reinforce the lesson by asking questions. After each presentation of soil ask the children "What happened to the seed when it tried to take root?" (The birds ate the seed, the rocks got in the way and sun burned it, thorns choked the seed, the seed multiplied over and over again.) What did Jesus say the seed represented? (The seed represented the giving of the salvation message, the Word of truth.) It is at this time a salvation message should be given.

When you're finished reading the passage, use the cups of soil to review its type and what happened to it.

Ask for a response from the children about their listening assignment. Ask each group "What did you learn about what happened to your type of soil? How did Jesus explain what their soil represented?"

Select a volunteer from each group to talk about their soil, what happened to their soil, and Jesus' explanation about their soil. Have children put some good planting soil in a cup and show them how deeply to plant the seed in the dirt. Put a small amount of water in each and encourage the children to care for their seed and watch it grow. Encourage them to replant it outside in the spring to watch it multiply.

Lesson Evaluation: Ask for one volunteer from each group to explain what they learned about their soil. Give a list of possible lessons and ask the children to stand up if the statement is true from the teaching in the passage.

1. Birds always eat seeds when they are planted in the ground. False.
2. Thorns choke plants from growing and reproducing. True.
3. The sun always scorches a plant growing in soil. False.
4. The seed in good soil always multiplies. True.
5. The soil doesn't determine how well a plant will grow. False.
6. The enemy tries to snatch the truth from people believing. True.
7. Rocky soil makes it hard for seeds to take root. True.
8. The enemy deceives us with riches and tribulations. True.

Need More Ideas? Then browse our ideas for [children's church decorations](#) or find another [craft idea](#) to accompany this lesson plan.

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” -Matthew 13:23 ESV



“Be the Good Soil”

Craft Ideas for the Parable of the Sower

The Parable of the Sower can be slightly challenging to look at when working with very young children, as far as metaphor explanation goes. However, it is a fun one when it comes to crafts. As with many planting and growth analogies, there are plenty of engaging ways to make items that lend themselves to the story. Here are a few suggestions for crafts that relate to gardening and remind us to let God’s Word produce spiritual “blossoms” in our lives.

Bible Verses or Captions to Consider...

23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” -Matthew 13:23

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. -Luke 8:15

A heart of good soil...ready to receive God’s Word!

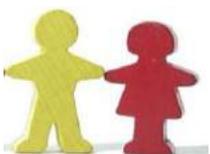
God plants seeds in our hearts...let’s allow them to grow!

Flowering in the love of God

Blooming in faith, and growing spiritual fruit

More Parable of the Sower Teaching Ideas

- See all our resources on [the Parable of Jesus](#)
- See the [video example of this craft](#) and our [playlist on the Parable of the Sower](#)
- Browse our [Parable of the Sower Sunday School lesson](#)



Craft one: “Paper Flower Garden”

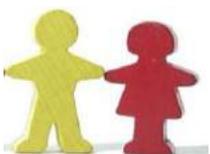
You will need:

- Tissue paper, coffee filters, and/or cupcake liners
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or staples
- Popsicle sticks or pipe cleaners
- Cup or pot for display



Procedure:

1. Use markers to decorate coffee filters and/or cupcake liners with color. If time and resources allow, consider lightly misting the coffee filters to allow the colors to soak through (if using this method, let the filter dry completely).
2. Fold tissue paper using an “accordion-style” back and forth fold. Carefully arch the paper to create a circular “flower” shape.
3. Add pom-poms, pipe cleaners, or additional decorations as desired.
4. Use pipe cleaners or popsicle sticks for “stems” to attach the flowers onto something sturdy. Display in a cup or pot as desired.



Craft Two: “Plant Pot”

You will need:

- Small pot or cup
- Small seeds (or lima beans)
- Soil
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Caption or verse
- Markers (Sharpies recommended)



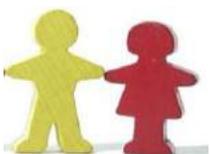
Procedure:

1. Select the vessel for your plant: use a small pot or cup.
2. Using permanent markers, write and/or draw on the pot or cup.
3. Add extra decorations as desired, such as stickers or puffy paint (if feeling adventurous).
4. Place a small amount of soil in the bottom of the cup or pot.
5. Place a bean or seeds into the soil. Add more soil on top.
6. Give the plant a small amount of water. Place a dish or plate underneath it, to catch the excess soil and water. Place in sunshine and enjoy!



Extra Craft Possibilities:

- **“Seed art”**: Decorate construction paper or card stock with a plant-themed illustration. Drizzle glue (or spread with a glue stick) around selected parts of the picture, and sprinkle various seeds over it.
- **“Bird feed seed”**: Feed the birds! Spread peanut butter or frosting on a pinecone or corn cob, and dust with bird seed. Attach a string or pipe cleaner to hang.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May

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