

## Parable of the Sower

### IDC Kids Preschool

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

**Key Passage:** Mark 6:34

**Main Point:** Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.

**Big Picture Question:** Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.

**Christ Connection:** Not everyone who hears about Jesus believes in Him. Some people don't understand Jesus or they think they are happy without Him. People who hear the gospel—the good news about Jesus—and believe in Him will be blessed.

### Watch this week's [\*\*IDC Kids Online Video\*\*](#)

For added reinforcement, retell the story below. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### Talk about the Bible story

Say • **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.** Some people just do not understand how much Jesus loves them. Other people believe, but then when times are hard, they stop trusting Jesus. Some people want things in the world more than they want Jesus. But some people believe the truth about Jesus and follow Him. Those are the people we want to be!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

What do we call a story that Jesus used to teach people about God's kingdom? (*a parable*)

How many types of soil did Jesus talk about? (*four*)

Who did Jesus tell what the story about the seeds really meant? (*Jesus' friends*)

What did the seeds in the story represent? (*the good news about God's kingdom*)

What did the soils in the story represent? (*people's hearts*)

### Learn the big picture question

Say • Our big picture question is, ***Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.*** Life in God's kingdom is different than life on earth. Jesus used stories about things on earth that we already know about to help us understand things about His kingdom that we do not know about.

### Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Mark 6:34. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Huge, Huge Crowd."

Say • Our key passage tells us that Jesus saw all the people and cared about them. He wanted to help them, so He taught them about God and God's kingdom.

## Activities

### Dig in Seeds

Fill a plastic tub with a several inches of bird seed. Hide plastic people figures among the seeds. Provide plastic garden tools for preschoolers to dig for the people.

Say • The parable Jesus told about seeds and soil was really about people and how they respond to the truth about God's kingdom. **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.** Some people don't understand Jesus, or they think they are happy without Him. People who hear the gospel—the good news about Jesus—and believe in Him will be blessed.

### Plant Seeds

Use small clay pots OR Cut cardboard tubes into 2 1/2-inch lengths. Cut four equally spaced 1/2-inch slits on one end of the tube. Fold the flaps over one at a time to close the end. Make one for each child.

Cover a table. Place some potting soil in a bowl. Invite a preschooler to spoon potting soil into his tube and use a craft stick to plant his seed according to the package directions. Invite him to use a spray bottle of water to gently water his seed.

Say • We planted our seeds in good soil so they will grow into healthy plants. In the parable Jesus told, the people who hear what is true about God's kingdom and believe it are like the seeds that fell on good ground. **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.** People who hear the gospel—the good news about Jesus—and believe in Him will be blessed.

### Sort seeds

Set out a mixture of seeds such as beans, corn, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seeds. Invite preschoolers to sort the seeds into cups of a muffin pan.

Say • Jesus told a story about seeds and soil to teach people about sharing the good news about God with others. **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him,** even if they hear the good news. People who hear and believe the gospel will be blessed.

### Examine soil

Post an allergy alert. Provide containers with good soil, sand, and rocks for the children to feel. Invite preschoolers to brainstorm which soil would be best for growing plants.

Say • Jesus told a story about a farmer planting seeds. His seeds fell on a path, rocks, thorns, and good ground. Jesus was really talking about the good news about Him. **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.** This was like the seed that fell on the path, rocks, and thorns. But the seed that fell on good ground is like when people believe in Him, and it changes them.

### Examine roots

Gather various plants, making sure the roots are intact. Provide magnifying glasses for the children to examine the roots. Talk about how the roots of the plants stay underground and provide nutrients.

Say • When a plant's roots grow deep into good soil, they get lots of nutrients. This is what it's like for us when the good new about Jesus grows deep in our hearts. In our Bible story, **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him,** but He also said those who do believe will be blessed.

### Paint with vegetables

Provide sliced vegetables (celery pieces, broccoli crowns, potatoes cubes), washable paint, smocks, and construction paper. Invite the children to dip vegetables in the paint and stamp it on their construction paper.

Say • **Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.** When seeds have the right amount of water, sunlight, and nutrients, they grow into plants! Some plants become vegetables, like the ones we painted with. Jesus said when the good news is planted in our hearts, it changes us.

## Activity page

Download and print [this week's activity page](#)

Guide preschoolers to count the total plants.

Say • You can see that the most plants grew in the best ground. Plants cannot grow on a path, and plants cannot grow well in rocky soil or soil full of thorns. In today's Bible story, Jesus told a story about sowing, or planting, seed.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

Say • Thank You, Jesus, for telling this story so we could learn about God. Thank You for reminding us that not everyone who hears about You will believe and be changed. Change our hearts, Jesus! Help us believe You are the best thing for us. We love You. Amen.