

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #69

DATE:

SUBJECT: The Parable of the Sower

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:5-15, Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

AIM: To show the children how important it is to have a soft and willing heart for God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE: Jeremiah 24:7a "And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God ..."

SONGS: 63, 65, 66, 130, 146

Content:

Today we are going to hear a story of another parable that the Lord Jesus told when He walked on the earth. Do you remember what a parable is? (A story with a lesson.) So far we have heard three parables (Have the children name them and the main point of the parable if they can. The Good Shepherd – God cares for each one of us. The Runaway Boy – We can always come back to God. The Good Samaritan – We should care for one another.) Today's parable is called The Sower.

Do you know what it means to "sow"? To sow means to plant seeds. You plant seeds so that plants, trees, vegetables, etc. will grow. Have any of you ever planted seeds and watched a plant grow? Maybe some of your parents plant flowers or vegetables in the spring. They grow through the summer and in the fall you pick them and eat them.

When you plant or sow seeds you need to put the seeds in good healthy dirt. Then the seeds can be protected from the hot sun and they can get water from the dirt. When the seeds begin to grow they grow roots going down and a plant coming through the dirt. The roots help to feed the plant and help to hold it in the ground if a strong wind blows. The fruit or vegetable then grows on the plant.

Think of a tree. Sometimes you can see some of the tree's roots around the tree. There are really a lot more under the ground. This tree does not blow away because it has roots. It grows taller every year because the dirt and roots help to feed it. Jesus used the example of seeds growing to try to teach a lesson.

He told them about a man who went out in his field to sow (or plant) some seed. Some of the seed fell by the side of the road. This seed was easy to see and the birds came along and ate it. Some seed fell on rocks. The seed started to grow but there was no dirt to protect it from the sun. When the sun came out the small plant dried up and died. Some other seeds fell into thorns. (They're sharp hard plants.) The seed started to grow but the thorns grew up and choked the new plant and it died. Then some seed fell into the good dirt. The seeds began to grow and grow. In time they grew fruit.

Jesus' friend wanted to know what this story meant. So Jesus told them, "The seed is the word of God." Jesus spoke many things (or sowed a lot of seed) but many people who heard Jesus did not listen to His words. Other people would listen a little but they wouldn't let the word or seed grow in them. They forgot about God. But some people do listen to God's word. They let God's seed or word grow in their hearts. This is the seed that fell on the good ground and caused many plants to grow.

God wants us to be the good ground. He wants you to hear His word (through children's meeting, or your parents). He wants His words to stay with you. He wants you to grow up loving Him, loving His ways, and His church. He wants you to tell other people about Him.

Even at your young age you can be a good ground. How? First by learning your memory verse every week. If you learn the verse now it will stay in your head for a long time. This verse will stay in your heart also.

You don't want to be the rocky ground. The seed died there. If you're too busy watching TV or playing games instead of learning your verse, then you are like the rocky ground. God's word cannot grow. But if you learn your verse and remember it then you are the good ground.

Maybe one day you will tell a friend of yours about Jesus. Maybe you will tell him a verse that you learned. Your friend might want to know more about Jesus. This is God's seed growing. This is God's word spreading. We need to be the good ground so the good seed can grow in us.