

FAMILY (SMALL GROUP) TIME WITH JESUS

Parable of the Sower



Scripture: Matthew 13:1-23

Verse: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Psalm 119:11

Concept: We must constantly keep our hearts soft and prepared to hear and respond to God’s Word. He continually gives us seeds that will help us grow; it is up to us to have a place for that seed to take root and mature.

ILLUSTRATING:

Read the Scripture. As you read the Scripture reference, have one or all of your children act it out.

Another option as you read the following; have the children act it out:

A farmer is planting seeds and drops one on the path. This first seed is carried away by a big bird. He then drops another seed on stony ground. The seed begins to grow, (A child in a box begins to grow) but then the sun comes out and the plant that began to grow withers (child withers back into the box). The third seed is dropped in some weeds. The seed begins to grow (child in box begins to grow) but the evil weeds choke the life out of him (have someone with labels such as riches, fame, being popular etc come out). The fourth seed is planted in good soil and the seed (the child grows) grows strong and healthy.

DISCUSSION:

Discuss each part of this parable and how the different ground types related to conditions of our heart when we allow things into our hearts.

1. What is the seed Jesus was talking about?
2. Who could the bird represent?
3. Who could the sun and weeds represent?
4. Why is it important to keep our hearts soft and free from the junk of this world?
5. Does Jesus want to talk to us and teach us ways to serve Him and be happy?
6. How do we keep our hearts open and ready to grow in Jesus?
7. Talk about some good seeds you see growing in your children. Let them share good seeds that they see growing.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Have four containers on the table each evening this week.

1. Soil that is hard packed.
2. A little soil mixed with rocks
3. Soil with weeds stuck in it
4. Some loose rich soil.

Before dinner each night, do a “heart check.” Have everyone in the family pick one of the containers they think best describes their heart condition that day. Pray for one another and use the opportunity to discuss the importance of keeping our hearts soft and open to receive God’s Word and instruction.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER



Match all the things from the parable of the sower (on the left) with what Jesus was trying to teach (on the right).

THORNS

GOOD SOIL

FARMER

PATH

ROCKY GROUND

SEED

GOOD CROP

SUN

BIRDS

SATAN

HARD HEART

**HEART LACKING
DEEP
RELATIONSHIP WITH
JESUS**

**SOMEONE SHARING
GOD'S WORD**

**SOFT AND
TEACHABLE HEART**

**TROUBLES AND
PERSECUTION**

**CARES OF THIS
WORLD**

GOD'S WORD

**RICH AND FRUITFUL
LIFE**



**"I HAVE HIDDEN YOUR WORD IN MY HEART THAT I
MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU.**

PSALM 119:11 NIV