



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



The Teaching of Jesus

The Sower

Luke 8:4-15

Teaching Aim

To encourage young lives to respond to God's word.

Setting the scene

In His stories Jesus used examples that the people could easily understand. Here He probably could see a farmer sowing seed. The people would have been familiar with this sight.

The story

Read Luke 8 : 4-8. Here the farmer is throwing the seed by hand from a basket which he is carrying on his hip. The seed falls into four kinds of soil.

The path - In those days farmers did not have fields, but rather narrow strips of land. People could walk by the side of this strip of land, treading it into a hardened path. Any seed landing on this would be trampled on and then eaten by the birds.

Rock - This describes soil that was very shallow, just about covering the hard limestone beneath. The layer of soil was too thin to retain any moisture, so the roots had no nourishment and the plant died.

Thorns - Some seed fell on this ground which looked as if it was well prepared for planting, But the weeds were there growing at the same time as the new plant, choking it so that no plants grew there.

Good soil - Here the seed grew and produced an excellent crop. One seed yielded a hundred fold.

The meaning

Very few of Jesus' parables have an explanation attached, but this one does. The seed is God's word or God's message The soil describes the different kinds of people who respond to hearing God's message.

The path are those who have closed minds, who shut out God's message and will have nothing to do with it.

The rock are those who happily accept God's word but, when difficulties come, or their faith is tested, like plants with no roots, they collapse, and fall away.

The thorns are those who allow worry, or riches, or pleasure, or many other things to fill their lives and so the word of God is crowded out of their lives.

The good seed are those who hear God's message, listen to it and accept it, basing their lives on the teaching in God's word. They become strong Christians whose lives reflect their faith, influencing other people for good.

Summing up

There are all kinds of people, some do not follow Jesus, others follow for a little while. We are urged to accept God's word whole heartedly and allow God's influence to grow in our lives by becoming mature Christians.

Resources

Memory Verse

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The Sower - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The Sower - 2".
- Work out a play based on this parable, the characters being - the farmer, the four types of soil, others representing the birds, the sun, the thorns, the good seed.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks that we have God's word, the Bible.
- Pray that:
- God will give us the faith to be true to Him at all times
 - Our non Christian friends will come to know and love Jesus.

The Sower

Colour in the line to the correct answer.

A farmer went out to — ● —

- sow his seed
- cut his hay
- plow his fields

The seed on the good ground yielded a crop — ● —

- 10 times what was sown
- 80 times what was sown
- 100 times what was sown.

The birds ate the seed that fell — ● —

- on good ground
- among the rocks
- on the path

The seed is — ● —

- the word of God
- corn
- good deeds done to others

Memory Verse

Find the verse and learn it.

But these seeds on good soil stand forth to those with an noble and good heart, who hear the word, and by persevearing produce a crop. Luke 8:15

The Sower

Complete the sentences below by joining the correct "■". One is done for you.

Some fell along the path	■	■	and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.
Some fell on rock	■	■	the word of God.
Other seed fell among thorns	■	■	and the birds of the air ate it up.
Still other seed fell on good soil	■	■	and the plants withered because they had no moisture.
The seed is	■	■	which grew up with it and choked the plants.

The Meaning of the parable

Replace the missing words with words from the list below to find the meaning of the parable.

word, saved, devil, joy, hearts, hear, rock, choked, produce, testing, riches, root, good, thorns, heart

The seed is the w_____ of God.

Those that fell along the path are the ones who h_____, and then the d_____ comes and takes away the word from their h_____, so that they may not believe and be s_____.

Those on the r____ are the ones who receive the word with j___ when they hear it, but they have no r____. They believe for a while, but in the time of t_____ they fall away.

The seed that fell among t_____ stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are c_____ by life's worries, r_____ and pleasures, and they do not mature.

The seed on g____ soil stands for those with a noble and good h_____, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering p_____ a crop.