

Sowing Seed

By Lee Yates

Parables are a gift from God. Each time we re-read a parable, our personal experiences cause us to hear it in a different way. It's like opening the same present over and over and always being surprised. Take a look at this familiar parable that Jesus told and see what gift it has for you today.



For

Young Adult

Season

Summer

Needed

Bible

Prepare in Advance

Invite a friend to join you, or do this activity by yourself first and then do it again later with others.

Activity Plan

1. Begin with prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

Lord of creation, may your Son's teaching about something as simple as a seed open my eyes to your presence and leading in my life. Amen.

2. Read Mark 4:1-9 in your Bible or from the text at the end of this activity. Use the following questions to help you think about the text:
 - Which type of soil are you at this point in your life?
 - How has your soil type changed at different periods of your life?
3. Read again Mark 4:1-9. Consider:
 - If you are the seed Jesus is sowing, when have you experienced the different types of soil?
 - How does it make you feel when you try to bring God's love to someone and it gets "choked out" or the person is too "dried up" to receive it?
4. Read again Mark 4:1-9. Consider:
 - What types of things can dry up or choke out a person's faith?
 - How can we protect against having our faith dried up or choked out?
5. While it is easy to place Jesus in the role of sower, what if the parable intends for the reader to be the farmer? If you are the farmer, what might God be trying to tell you? Read the parable again from this perspective.
6. Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply Jesus' teachings to your daily life. Here are some words if you need them:

God, thank you for the gift of Jesus and for the parables he told. Help me to open my ears and use what I learn wisely. Amen.



Mark 4:1-9

The Parable of the Sower

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

² And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

⁹ And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

