

Gospel of Luke / Lesson 14
Parable of The Sower

Luke 8:4-18

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 8:18
"Therefore take heed how you hear."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED for this lesson :

Four pans illustrating the different types of soil from Luke 8:5-8; one with hard soil, one with rocky soil, one with weedy soil, and one with good, rich soil.

A flashlight or small lamp and a bucket or box.

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal: **We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.**

Today we will be learning the Parable of the Sower. It is an interesting story that Jesus told to a multitude of people who were following Him. In it we are going to learn a lot of things about listening to and receiving God's Word. It is very important that we not only hear God's Word but also let it sink deep into our hearts.

Luke 8:4

4 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable

What is a Parable?

A parable is a story that uses an everyday experience to teach a spiritual truth.

We are going to learn, as important as it is for us to follow Jesus, people Loved Jesus and His teaching because it was simple; he used parables and stories to teach them so that they could understand. **We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.**

The Soils [Visual Aid]

Before class, prepare four pans [Plates] with four different kinds of soil illustrating verses 5-8. Make one pan a solid hard soil (this can be done by letting mud harden), make another pan full of rocks, make another full of weeds and finally make the last full of good, rich soil. Show your class each pan as it corresponds with the verse you read below as an illustration

Luke 8:5-8

5 “A Sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

We are first introduced in our story to the Sower, and we are told that he went out to sow (or plant) his seed. When farmers would plant their seeds, they would scatter the seed. Sometimes the seed would fall on bad soil and not grow. We see that some seed fell by the wayside, or a busy road, and some fell on rocky soil. Other seed fell among thorns. Finally, we see that some fell on good ground.

The Sower and the seed remain the same throughout the story; nothing changes. The only difference in the story is the type of ground that the seed falls on. This is important and will be explained as we go along.

Who is the Sower?

We are not told here in Luke, but in Matthew 13:37 Jesus said, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man..." From this we know He is talking about Himself.

What is the Seed?

The seed is the Word of God [the bible]. So, we know God's Word is being sown all over the world. But what kinds of soils are receiving His it? **We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.**

What are the 4 types on land that the seed fell on?

- 1- Wayside
- 2- Rocks
- 3- Thorns
- 4- Good Soil

What happened to the seeds in each area?

- 5- Wayside: the birds ate them
- 6- Rocks: It dried up because there was no water to feed it
- 7- Thorns: Thorns choked it once it grew
- 8- Good Soil: it yielded 100-fold.

Luke 8:8-10 [Servants may elect not to read all, but pick some verses for the kids to read]

9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

The Purpose of Parables

[For Servants info only] We see here that Jesus cried out. This is the same Greek word, "phoneo," which Luke uses to describe the cry of the Lord at the close of His sufferings on the cross. Jesus wanted the people to hear His words of life; He cried out for the people to hear Him with listening hearts.

The disciples questioned Him on the meaning of the parable. In Matthew 13:14-16, Jesus said, "Therefore I speak to them in parable, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the heart of this people has grown dull.' Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their heart and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear."

Luke 8:11

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God

The Parable of the Sower Explained

Since Jesus is the Sower, we can rest assured that the seed is always good seed. The Word of God is always good. It is the soil, the condition of our hearts, that makes the difference. We either keep the Word of God or we do not.

God's Word is continually going forth. There are many ways that God's Word is communicated: by reading the Bible, going to church, Attending Sunday School, Listening to the bible stories from your parents and Abouna, etc.

The Bible says that His Word is powerful; it has the message of salvation and can help us to become more like Jesus. But what is most important is the condition of our hearts as we receive God's Word. **We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.**

The Soils

[Servants] Use the soil pans that you prepared for verses 5-8a again.

Luke 8:12

12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Here we see a heart with hard soil, which is unresponsive. The seed cannot even begin to take root in such a hard soil. The devil is a subtle enemy; he makes it his business to try to hinder the work of God in our lives. He takes the Word out of the hearts of careless hearers, lest they should believe and be saved. We cannot be saved unless we believe, and the devil does all he can to keep us from believing.

- This is simply a heart that does not respond to the word of God

Luke 8:13

13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

Here we see a heart that receives the Word, but only for a short time. This person is one with a shallow or emotional heart. He endures only for a short time, and when the trials come along, he gives up. This is the person who has never submitted their will to God or rooted himself or herself in His Word, making their soil unproductive, too shallow and thin to support the growth of a Christian life.

- This is a hard heart that does not produce when they listen to the word of God.

Luke 8:14

14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

This heart has heard the Word but allows the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches to choke it out. This is a heart that is too full of things to leave room for God. Material riches can be dangerous to our life with the Lord and our ability to hear and obey Him. The seed began to grow in this heart, but the soil was not worked properly. It was full of thorns making it destructive. We need to be careful that our heart is not too full for God to fit inside of us. Remember, He deserves to be first in our hearts. We need to not let anything keep us busy from God; we still can read bible, pray and have communion even when we have exams; lots of studying or games and practices; right?

Luke 8:15

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

This is an honest heart, ready to receive instruction and obey. Fruit comes from perseverance and patience in our lives. This heart hears the Word, understands it, receives it, and keeps it, just as the good soil receives and keeps the seed. The good soil is the heart that wants to hear and grow in the Lord. It wants only His way. **We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.** Remember the honest heart will bear fruits; will have a good behavior, he would not say bad words, or be mean to others; he would not lie or have pride; but if he did; he quickly repents and confesses with Abouna.

Applications: Practical Practice:

When you read the bible, hear a sermon at the church or read a Christian story [of saints or bible stories] Pray that God will grow that word in you and that you would obey God and have an honest heart.

Luke 8:16

16 "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.

The Parable of the Revealed Light

When we are actively preparing our hearts to hear from God and receiving His Word, we too can shine Christ's light for everyone to see. We are called to be lights in a dark world; that stewardship is a privilege and a responsibility. We have been entrusted with the Word of life so that our lives might shine before men. Jesus is the light of the world and he wants us to be lights as we are his children, light to those who stumble in the darkness that they may find the truth of His love, mercy and grace.

Activity [optional] Hide It Under A Bushel?

Bring a flashlight or a small lamp and a bucket or box. Light the flashlight or lamp, and cover it with the bucket or box. Turn off the lights in the class, and tell the children to move around the class.

Remove the bucket or box from the light, and have them move around the class again. Ask the children to describe the difference of walking in the dark vs. walking in the light. Which did they feel safer and more comfortable with?

Explain that our lives are to be lights to a dark world. The light of Jesus in our lives should be noticeable to those around us.

Luke 8:17-18

17 For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. 18 Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

In the end, the truth about every heart will be known. Nothing is hidden from God. May it be our prayer that we are good keepers of His Word, proclaiming the good news of the gospel to the whole world.

Jesus gave them many truths and urged them to listen. We must be careful how we hear the Word of God. Did you know that you can hear something and not really be listening?

Promise yourself that you will pay attention in the church, when reading the bible and hearing a sermon, and ask God to have an honest heart.

[Activity game: Telephone]

Lead the children in a game of telephone. Write a message on a piece of paper, and whisper it into the ear of the first child. Have each child whisper the message to the next until the last child recites it to the class.

This message will inevitably be different. Explain to the class how easy it is to not hear things properly or completely.

You could listen to all the words of Jesus but not hear them if you do not open your heart to what He is saying and obey Him. Those who really hear are the ones who desire to find truth because Jesus is truth. The heart that is made of good soil is the heart that tells the Lord it wants to not only listen to His word but obey it, a heart that wants to be made more like Jesus. **We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking the Lord to make them careful hearers of His Word, allowing Jesus to change them according to His will and ask God that their hearts would be a good soil that bears fruits.

Email to parents

Dear parents;

In the lesson this week, we learned about the parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-18). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. We need to prepare our hearts to receive God's Word. The condition of our heart is a very important part of receiving the truth of God's Word and growing in Jesus. We learned that the seed which represents God's Word lands on the soil of our heart. The seed that lands on hard soil is snatched up by the devil before it can penetrate the heart and take root. The heart of shallow soil responds initially then continues on it's same old path. The heart with crowded soil has no room for God's Word, even though it knows God! But the good soil represents the hearts of those who hear and receive and bring forth fruit. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

Video:

<https://youtu.be/vyJM4dHv4g>

Activity packet:

<https://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/Curriculum/Original/Curriculum/CURR192.PDF>