

Lesson 3: Adversity

Today's Bible Story

Jesus was sitting by the Sea of Galilee when a large crowd gathered around him. He told them a story.

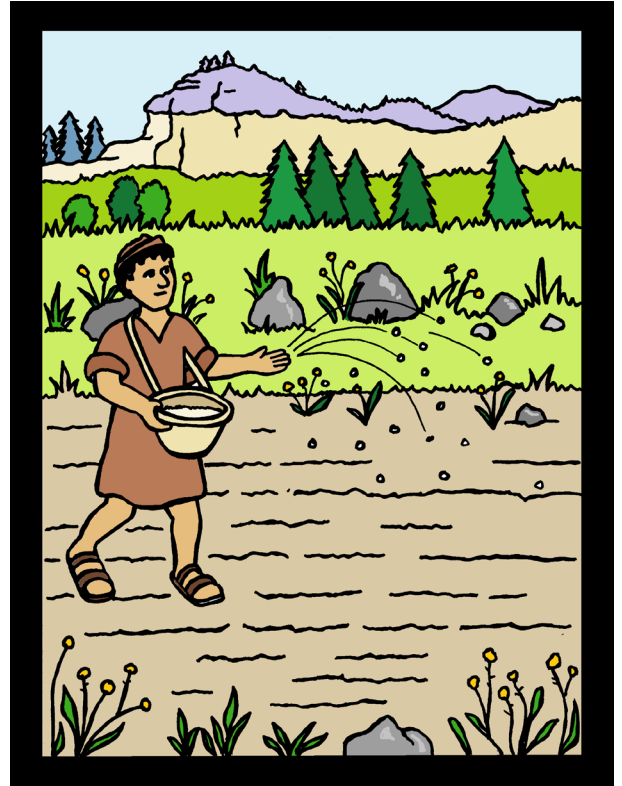
"One day, a farmer went out to scatter seeds," Jesus said. "Some of his seeds fell along a path. But before they could sprout, birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground. Yet since there wasn't much dirt, they couldn't put down roots. So, they dried up when the sun came out. A bunch of seeds fell among thorns. When the thorns grew, they choked the little shoots. But some of the farmer's seeds fell on good soil! Those seeds produced grain, and lots of it. Whoever has ears — hear!"

"Why do you speak to the people in parables?" the disciples asked Jesus.

"You've been given the gift of knowing the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. They haven't," Jesus answered. "Consider yourselves blessed, because you have heard and seen things that even prophets have never experienced.

"This is what the parable of the sower means: When someone hears the message of God's kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one snatches away whatever was sown in the heart — much like a bird snatching seeds along a path. When someone hears the message and joyfully receives it, but then falls away when trouble comes — that's like seed planted on rocky ground. Having no root, it can't last. When someone hears the message but gets caught up in the worries of life, that's like seed planted among thorns. Those thorns choke the sprout.

"But do not be discouraged by doubts and failure. When someone hears and understands God's Word, it's like the seed that is planted in good soil! God makes it grow and multiply into a great harvest!"



From Matthew 13:1-23

Bible Rhyme

Jesus always liked to teach.

He never gave a boring speech.
The kind of story he would tell
is what we call a "parable."

"God's Word," he said, "is like a seed.

It's something that all people need.
"But some seeds fall on thorns and rocks;
and growth in some the devil blocks.

"Yet even so, God's promise stands
like seeds that fall on fruitful land."
Here Jesus wanted all to know
that God himself makes faith to grow.



“A sower went out to sow” (Matthew 13:3).

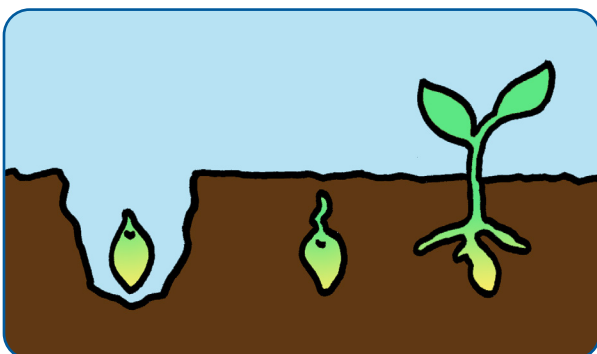
In each of the boxes below, draw the different areas where the sower scattered seed, showing what happened to the seeds in each picture!

a patch of thorns...

rocky soil ...

a dry path ...

good soil ...



God said: “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).