

## PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND 4 SOILS

### Scripture:

Matt. 13:1-9, Mark 4:3-8, Luke 8:4-8

### Materials Needed:

Potted seeds for ea student in 3" peat cup  
Visual of Jesus with crowds  
4 cups with the different kinds of soil

### Memory Verse:

*Matthew 13:9 He who has ears, let him hear.*

### Objectives:

 As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—After the religious leaders said Jesus' power was from Satan, He started teaching in parables because of their hard hearts. He told a parable about a sower who sowed seed that fell on 4 soil types and then said, "He who has ears, let him hear."

To Realize—God's Word reveals what is in the heart: whether hardened, quitting, other desires and worries, or a good response that acts.

To Respond by—evaluating where their hearts are and doing something about it.

### Before the Lesson:

Sing—*I Believe the Bible* and *We Must Not Forget God's Word*

### Memory Verse:

Today we going to start with our memory verse—and it is something Jesus said, but it is a Riddle. So we are going to learn the verse and then after the lesson, I want to see if any of you can tell me what you think it means. Now...if you figure it out BEFORE the end of the lesson, just hold it—because I'm going to ask you at the end of the lesson! It's Matthew 13:9 "HE WHO HAS EARS, LET HIM HEAR." Just 7 Words:4/3! (Point to one ear and then the other for each phrase.)

### Setting up the Story

Before Jesus was born, the people would go to their religious leaders to learn about God. The religious leaders had God's Word, but that's not what they were teaching. They had been teaching their own ideas for a loooong time. The people didn't even know that it wasn't God's Scriptures.

When Jesus came, He would travel from village to village and tell the people in Israel to repent of their sins and do what God wanted them to be doing. **He was teaching them what GOD SAID in the Scriptures.** So now the people had to make a choice: would they follow what Jesus was saying, or what their religious leaders had always taught them?

### Telling the story:

- I. Large Crowds Come to HEAR Jesus
- A. He has been denounced by the religious leaders, who

### As you tell the story:

When the religious leaders heard Jesus, they thought, "*We don't need to turn away from sin. We are good enough without Jesus!*" But they had a problem. **Jesus had been doing miracles that EVERYONE knew were from God,** and

have said His power is from Satan.

more and more people were listening to Jesus. How would they get the crowds to follow THEM and not Jesus? They finally **MADE THEIR CHOICE** what to do: they told the people that Jesus got His power from...SATAN and that His teaching was filthy and not good.

**From that point forward, something changed in the way that Jesus taught.**

Before that time, Jesus was speaking very PLAINLY so that everyone could understand. But after the religious leaders made their choice to be AGAINST HIM, He started teaching in parables: or stories that were like riddles.

B. He is by the Sea of Galilee shore

One day he was by the Sea of Galilee (show picture). LOTS of people had come. He got into a boat.

C. Crowds from all the surrounding villages have come to hear Him.

**I want us to imagine we were in the crowd that was listening to this story** and see if you can figure out what Jesus was talking about.

II. Jesus Tells the Parable

A. Sower goes out to sow

There was a man who was going to plant a field with seed. In those days there was a path, and on the edges of the field they would pile the rocks—that's where the weedy thorns grew! The man who planted wouldn't take one seed at a time. He would throw the seed out of his bag all at once.

B. Seed falls along the path

Jesus said: Some seed fell on the path. Well, that path was packed hard. (Show cup filled with clay packed dirt) What's going to happen to that seed? Birds saw that seed just sitting there and they came and ate it!

C. Seed falls among the rocks

And some seed fell on that pile of rocks. Now there was a little bit of soil there, so that seed actually sprouted! But then the sun came out and that little seedling didn't have enough roots and it just shriveled up before it produced anything.

D. Seed falls among the thorns

Some seeds fell on those weedy thorns. Well—it sprouted, but very quickly it got crowded out by what was already there, so it died.

E. Seed falls on good soil	And then there was good soil, and when the seed fell into the good soil, it grew into plants that grew the produce to eat! Some plants had some, some plants had lots, and some plants had TONS of produce!
III. Jesus Explains the Parable	Then you know what Jesus said. Matthew 13:9 (read or say together) HE WHO HAS EARS LET HIM HEAR!
A. The disciples get understanding because they have received and believed in Him.	Did everyone on that hillside have ears? Do you have ears?! If we had been there, would we have heard the story Jesus said? Jesus' disciples had ears, but they didn't understand what Jesus meant or why He was telling stories! So they asked Him when they were alone with Him. Jesus said, You already believe and have received Me, so you get more understanding, but those who have rejected me...they don't get to understand.
B. The seed is the WORD OF GOD	He said: the Seed is the WORD OF GOD. WHO WAS teaching God's Word that day? JESUS! So Jesus was like the farmer planting seeds. Now the SOILS were the hearts of the people who were listening. As God's Word went <b>into the ears</b> , it would go into the person's heart. And the TYPE OF HEART the person had would determine if the seed got to produce fruit.
C. Path=hard heart that Satan can snatch away the seed from	If it were a HARD heart...as soon as they left Jesus, they didn't think about God's word. Satan just snatched it right away. NOTHING CHANGED. Some people in the crowd had hard hearts.
D. Rocky=sprouts but has no root. In time of temptation it falls away	Some people in the crowd had a heart like the rocky ground. They believed Jesus' words and it looked like they were following him, but then temptation came, or maybe their friends laughed at them, and they said, "No...I don't want to follow Jesus anymore." <b>Today a lot of people are like rocky soil when they go to Middle or High School, or even College. They decide not to follow Jesus or listen to God's Word anymore.</b>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>E. Thorny=worries, pleasures and riches choke it out</p>  | <p>Some people in the crowd had a heart like the weedy, thorny ground. They liked God's Word, but guess what they REALLY liked? Money! And they started thinking about how could they make more money, and how were they going to pay for everything...and it crowded out God's Word. <b><i>Today a lot of people think more about getting a good job so they can make money and get stuff, and they forget God's Word.</i></b></p> |
| <p>F. Good=Hears in an honest and good heart and hold it fast with perseverance. It bears fruit.</p> | <p>But some people that day heard Jesus, and when it went down into their heart, they made a decision to ACT on it—to OBEY it. And THAT is the good soil. Some acted on it a little bit, some a lot, and others acted on it a WHOLE LOT!!</p>   |

### **Concluding the Story:**

So does anyone want to guess what Jesus meant when He said:

"He who has ears, let him hear."

Jesus was saying: I'm talking to you.

If you have a hard heart and don't pay attention to God's Word, you need to humble your heart.

If you listen to your friends and go away from Jesus, you need to stop, because you aren't going God's way.

If you are thinking about how you will get a lot of money, you need to stop, because that's not going God's way.

When you hear God's Word with your ears, you should act on it in your heart.

### **PASS OUT CONTAINERS WITH SEEDS IN THEM!!**

To help us remember that God wants there to be good fruit from what we hear, my mom planted seeds in really GOOD SOIL for each one of you to take home with you. I'm not going to be there to water it and take care of it—you are going to have to do it. Just like when I teach You God's Word each time on the Bible Bus...I can't make sure you think about it later—you have to do that.

### ***Sing: We must Not Forget God's Word again***

Pass out stickers and cookies.

Dismiss.