

# Life of Christ

## The story of the seed planter **Matthew 13:1-10; 18-23**

**Younger Verse**

Be kind to each other. Ephesians 4:32

**Older Verse**

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.  
Ephesians 4:32

**Lesson Goals**

Explain what the 4 seeds mean  
Understand how to get to Heaven

**Welcome Time**

Bring some seeds to class today. See if the class can identify which seeds produce which vegetables, flowers etc. Ask the children what it takes to grow a plant. Explain that today's lesson is a story about 4 seeds. Ask them to listen to see which one grows.

**Bible Story**

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One time Jesus was teaching many people by the lake. In fact, the crowd was so big that He got into a boat and sat in it to teach the people. He taught them many things by using stories that had meanings. They were called parables.

While He was talking, He told the people a story about some seeds. Jesus told the people that there was a farmer who went out to plant some seeds. Sometimes it is called "sowing" seeds. Farmers back then planted seeds by getting a handful and tossing them carefully onto the soil. As the farmer was scattering the seed, some fell along the walking path. The birds quickly saw it and ate it.

Other seed fell by the rocks where there was not much soil. A plant grew up quickly. Soon the sun came out and the plant withered because the plant did not have any roots.

Another seed landed by thornbushes. It began to grow but the thorns choked the plant and they did not bear any vegetables.

A fourth seed fell on good soil. It grew and produced a big crop! It made much more than the one little seed. It made lots and lots of vegetables.

Later, Jesus' friends asked Him what the story was supposed to mean. They did not understand what He was saying.

Jesus was surprised that they did not understand. Then He explained what each seed meant.

The seed that fell on the walking path are like people who hear about Jesus but Satan comes like the birds and takes them away.

The seed that fell by the rocks are like people who hear and learn about Jesus and have joy when they learn about Him. But, they have no roots because they stop going to church. Then trouble comes and they turn away.

The seed in the thornbushes is like people who know about Jesus but are more interested in making money or having what they want. These desires choke them and make them forget about Jesus.

Still others are like the good seed. They learn about Jesus and trust Him with their lives. They go to church and read their Bibles. They begin to grow as Christians. They learn more about what it means to believe in Jesus. There is a joy in their lives. They tell other people about Jesus and they want to believe too. That's the fruit—more people believe in Jesus because of them.

What kind of seed do you think you are—the seed on the path, the seed in the rocks, the seed in the thornbushes, or the good seed? Think about it.

Jesus showed us the way to go to Heaven. He helps us get there by His dying in our place for our sin. However, did you know that you don't automatically get into Heaven? That's right. The only way into Heaven is by believing in Jesus. It's more than just believing though. When you ask Jesus to come into your heart, He shows you things that need to be changed in your life. He helps you grow, like a seed. You also need to pray and listen to what God says. That's like sunshine. All these things help you to grow and help others know about Him. If you want to know more, please talk to us anytime.

#### Learning Activities

A fun activity is to act out the story using the kids or using seeds. This will help them visualize it and make it stick. There are other ideas in the packet too.

#### Memory Verse Activities

Write each word of the verse on index cards or pieces of paper. Turn them over. Let the kids work together to put the verse in order, turning over one card at a time. (It's like concentration.)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for everyone that came today and ask if there are any requests. Ask God to help each person be like the little seed in the good soil. Encourage them to pray and read about the story in the Bible this week.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Time to clean up! Ask everyone to help. Share snacks and talk about the lesson again. You may want to serve "seed" snacks like sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds. (Be sure the hulls go in the garbage.)

Planning for June 8th  
The Story of the Weeds  
Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Preschool Lesson  
for  
The Story of the Seeds

One time, Jesus told a story about some little, tiny seeds. These little seeds were being planted by a farmer. The farmer would get a handful of them and carefully toss them onto the soil. Jesus told a story about 4 places the seeds landed.

The first seed landed on the walking trail. High up in the sky a bird saw the seed. He knew it would make a good supper! So the bird flew down and ate the seed! (Let the kids wrap your thumbs together and wave your fingers like a bird swooping down to get a seed.)

The second seed fell by the rocks. It grew up quickly but it had no roots. Soon the sun came out. (Make a sun with your hands.) As it rose high in the sky, it became very hot. (Wipe your forehead.) The poor little plant didn't have any roots to get water. It wilted. (Slouch over like the plant.)

The third seed landed right in the middle of some thornbushes! It started to grow, but the thorns choked the plant. (Make a choking sound as you lightly grab your neck--if appropriate.)

The fourth seed was a happy seed because it fell into good soil. It had plenty of water, fertilizer, and sunshine. It grew and made many vegetables!

Which seed would you like to be? (The fourth seed) Jesus told His friends that they should be like the fourth little seed that was happy. It was happy because it was in a good place and was growing. We can be happy when we learn about Jesus in church and keep coming to church. That helps us learn more about Jesus and love Him even more!

Hands-on Activities  
for  
The Story of the Seeds

Make Sunflower pictures or Story pictures of the 4 kinds of seeds.

Plant some seeds or make a little greenhouse!

Create a seed frame and put the memory verse in the middle.

Design the Milk Carton Planter for a plant.

Enjoy seed sandwiches.

Do the seed object lesson.

Bring different kinds of seeds and see if the kids can figure out which fruit or vegetable contains the seed.