

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 21

Which Soil Are You?

Luke 8:4-15

Life of Christ

Which Soil Are You?

Luke 8:4-15

Younger Verse

Let your roots grow down into him . . . so you will grow. Colossians 2:7

Older Verse

Let your roots grow down into him and draw nourishment from him so you will grow in faith. Colossians 2:7

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.*

More and more people were following Jesus. One day, a large crowd of people had come from different towns to listen to Jesus teach. Jesus taught them a **parable**. A parable is a story that teaches a lesson about God. This parable was about a farmer planting seed.

Jesus said that a farmer went out to his field to plant some seed. As the farmer scattered the seed, it fell on different parts of the ground, called soil. Some seed fell on a walking path. Soon, someone walked on the seed, and the birds immediately came and ate it.

Some of the seed fell on rocky soil that was not very deep. This soil had rock below the surface. A small plant grew, but it soon died because its roots could not get water and grow.

Other seed fell on soil covered with thorny weeds. When the plant came up, the weeds kept it from growing. They “choked” the small plant and it died.

Finally, some of the seed fell on good, rich soil. The seed on this soil grew strong and produced a big crop that was one hundred times the amount that had been planted!

After the story, Jesus said, “Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand!”

Jesus’ disciples asked Him what the story meant. Jesus said that He would explain it to them, but many others would not understand what He said.

Jesus started by saying, “The seed is God’s message.” Then He explained what the different types of soil represent. The seed that fell on the walking path is like people who hear God’s message. The birds who came and ate the seed represent Satan, who comes and takes it away from them so they cannot believe and be saved.

The rocky soil represents those people who hear God’s message and believe it at first. But they don’t let the Word grow into their hearts, so when trouble comes, they turn away from it.

The seed that fell among the thorny weeds is like people who hear the Message, but they let

Lesson Goals

- Learn about the different ways people respond to God’s message
- Recognize the things that can turn us away from God
- Understand the importance of growing in Christ and bearing fruit

the worries and cares of life stop them from growing and producing fruit.

The good soil represents those who hear God's message, believe it gladly, and continue to grow in Him. They produce a lot of fruit.

Which type of soil are you? When you hear God's Message, do you let Satan take it away from you? Do you let problems or worries distract you from following God? Or do you hear the Message, believe, and let it grow in your heart?

When we accept Christ and grow in Him, our lives should bear fruit. How do we bear fruit in our lives? We can show the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). We can also share our faith in Christ with others. We can invite our friends to Bible Study. We can show God's love to others by being kind and helpful. These are all ways we can show that we have roots in Christ! Let's keep growing by prayer, reading the Bible, and going to Bible Study!

Review Questions

1. What were the four types of soil? (The path, rocky soil, soil with weeds, and good soil)
2. What did Jesus mean by the soil with weeds? (The weeds are like the worries and cares of this life—they choke out the Word of God in our lives)
3. How can we have hearts like the good soil? (Listening and obeying God's Word; remembering what we learn)

Life Application

As children, it is important to keep growing. Kids need milk and healthy foods to grow strong. When we become adults, we stop growing taller. But in our spiritual lives, we should never stop growing. There is always more to learn about God. He has so much for us to learn! It is good to know the basics, like how to become a Christian, and that Jesus died and rose again. But that is just the beginning!

Think about babies. They need milk because they cannot eat solid food. But when they grow up, they can eat steak, hamburgers, etc. It is good to know about the "milk" of being a Christian. But don't we want to get to the "steak?" We have to keep growing in our walk with God by learning more about the Bible and what it's all about. If you don't have a desire to grow, pray about it. God can help you to have a heart that wants to grow and produce fruit!

Planning for Lesson 22
Have Faith
Luke 8:16-25

Preschool Lesson for Which Soil Are You?

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 four 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 their thumbs together and wave their 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
Which Soil Are You?**

Bring different types of soil in cups/pots. One cup should have soil with a lot of rocks. Another cup should have soil with weeds in it. Then bring a cup with good soil. Discuss which type of soil would be best to grow a plant.

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

If possible, take some birdseed outside and let the children toss it around. As the birds come down, remind the students that we don't want the devil to take away God's Word from our heart.

Make a heart out of construction paper. Have the kids write the Bible verse on it. Talk about ways to let God's word grow in our hearts.

Sing "The Fruit of the Spirit" song. Discuss what it means to bear fruit in our lives.

LET YOUR ROOTS
GROW DOWN INTO
HIM . . . SO YOU WILL
GROW.

COLOSSIANS 2:7



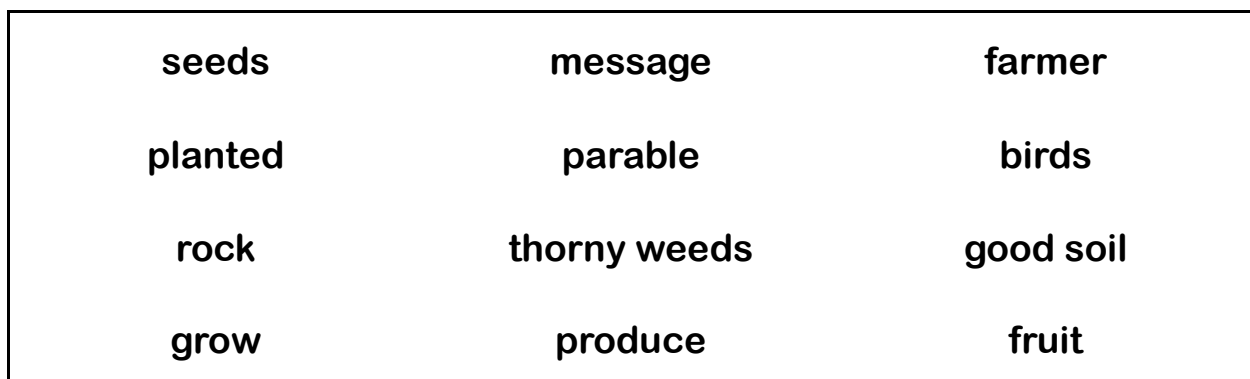
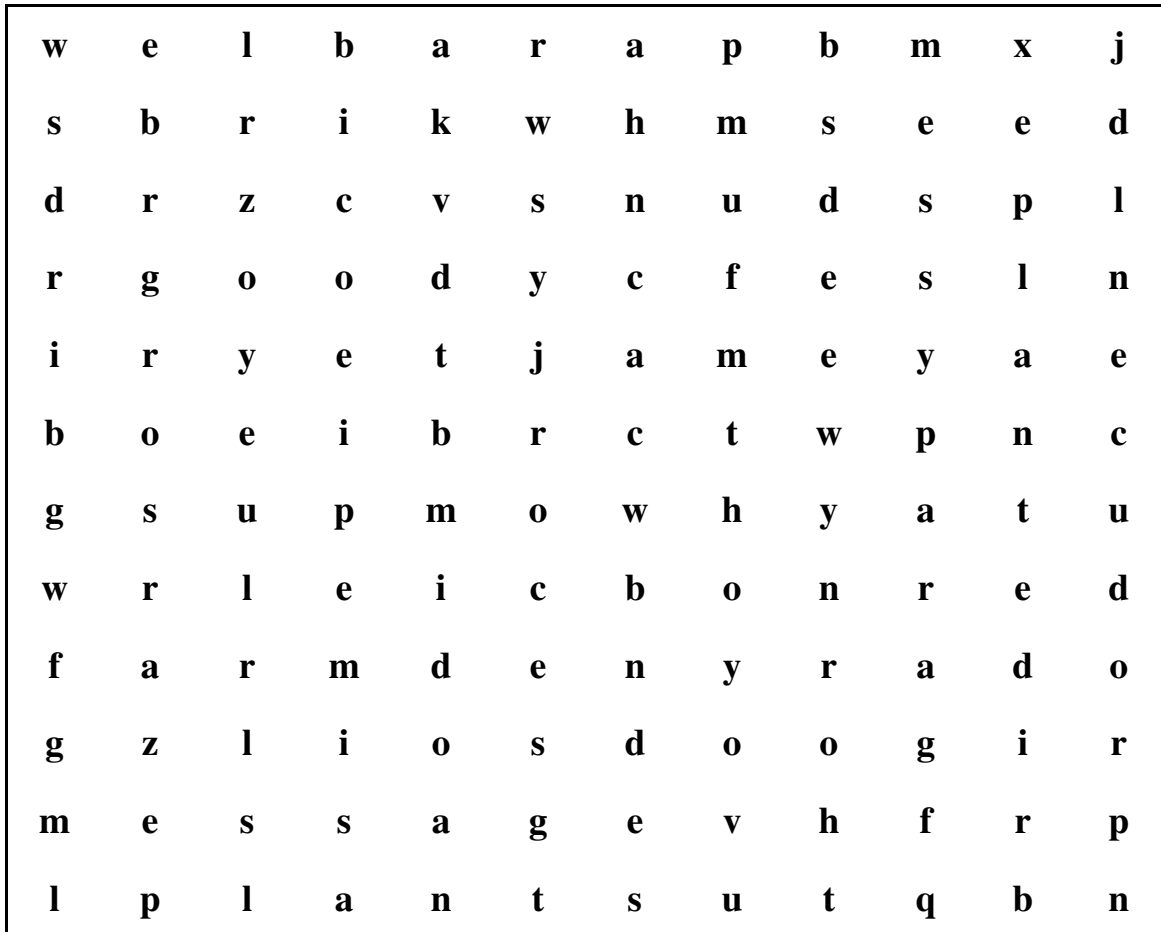
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Colossians 2:7



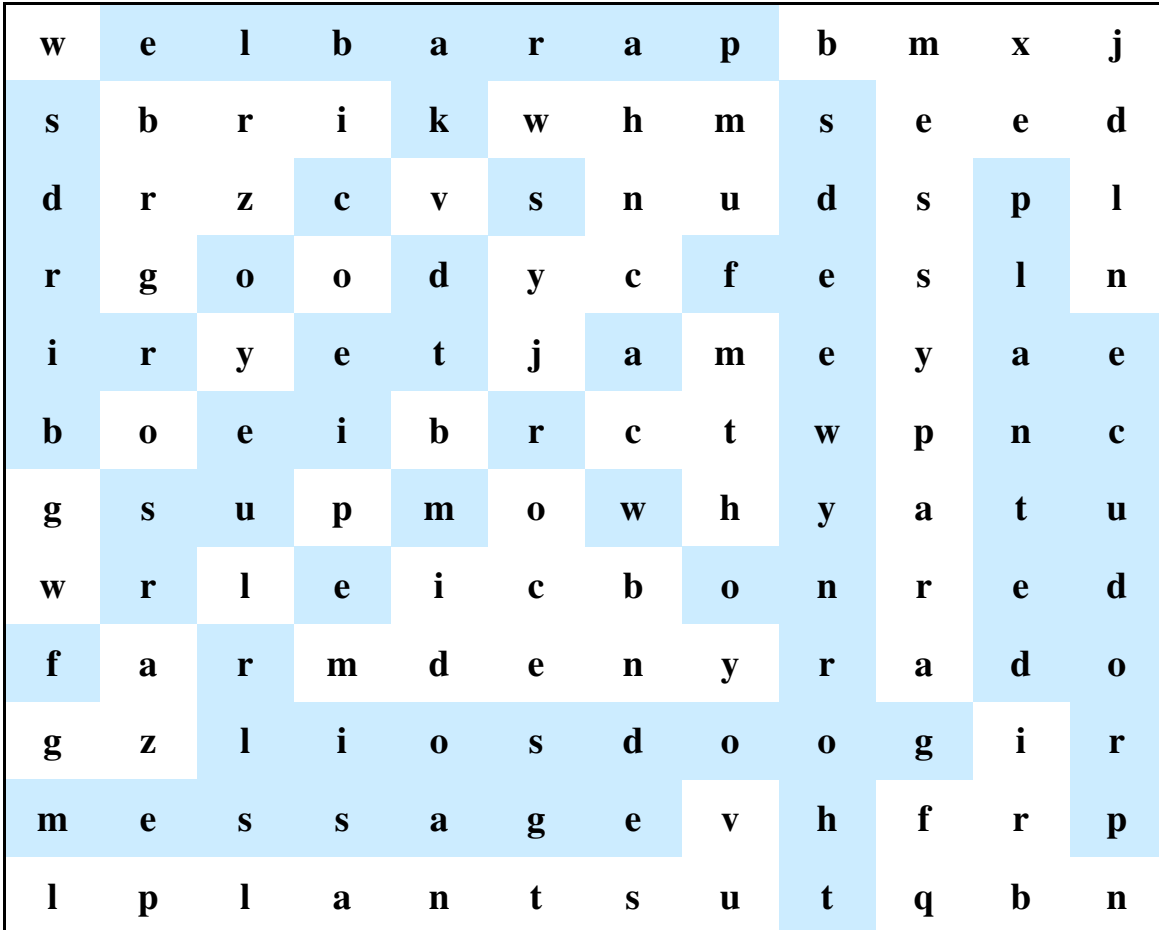
Word Search

Which Soil Are You?



Word Search

Which Soil Are You?



seeds	message	farmer
planted	parable	birds
rock	thorny weeds	good soil
grow	produce	fruit

Jesus said the seed is

G__d's M__s__a__e.

The good soil represents those who

h__a__, be__i__ve, and

GROW

in Christ.