

PARABLE OF THE SOWER EXPERIMENT

See Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:3-9; or Luke 8:4-15

Materials:

1 flower pot or tray of soil with hard-packed earth (or patch of ground outdoors)

1 flower pot or tray with lots of stones and a thin layer of soil underneath (or a comparable patch of ground outdoors)

1 flower pot or tray of soil with prickly weeds growing in it (or a comparable patch of ground outdoors)

OR just put some brambles into a pot or tray as an illustration of how inhospitable this ground would be for seeds

1 flower pot or tray of soil with good soil (or a comparable patch of ground outdoors)

seeds for planting such as wheat berries or rye grass (wheat berries should sprout in 3 days if kept moist)

Procedure:

1. Make sure that the trays of soil (or patches of ground outdoors) can receive plenty of sunlight.
2. Plant the seeds by sprinkling them on top of the soil.
3. Water the soil and observe what happens over the following days.

Discussion:

1. What makes good soil or ground for growing plants?
2. What can people do to make soil better? (dig it up, remove stones, pull out weeds, add compost or fertilizer, *etc.*)
3. Talk about why hard-packed earth, stony ground with little soil, and ground with weeds aren't ideal planting conditions.

Further Discussion:

1. Think about parallels between preparing soil for planting seeds and preparing our minds for planting truths.