

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 18
The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-9)

Theme: The Lord Tells a Parable

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. All the Word is a parable (a story with a hidden meaning).
- B. The Lord can enlighten all those who want the truth for the sake of living better lives. Only if we want the truth in order to serve the Lord and our neighbor can we see it within the parables of the Word.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. When the Lord was on earth, He told people stories, which showed them how to be good. Those stories are called parables.
 - 2. Once the Lord told a story about a sower. A sower is a person who plants seeds. Farmers plant seeds. Gardeners plant seeds. Have you ever planted a seed? Whoever plants seeds is a sower.
 - 3. Listen to the story from the Word.
- B. Tell/Read the Story:
 - 1. Read or retell the parable from Matthew 13:1-9. (Note that the wayside was a path across the fields with hard, packed soil.)
- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. Where did the Lord tell His story? (He got into a boat on the sea because many people came to hear Him.)
 - 2. What happened to the seeds that fell by the wayside? (The birds came and devoured them.)
 - 3. What happened to the seeds that fell on the stony places where there was not much earth? (They grew quickly, but the sun scorched them because they had no roots.)
 - 4. What happened to the seeds that fell among thorns? (The thorns sprang up and choked them.)
 - 5. What happened to the seeds that fell on good ground? (They grew well and yielded a crop.)

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 18

D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord is a sower, for He plants seeds in our minds. But the seeds are ideas, not flower seeds or vegetable seeds! The Lord plants the true ideas from the Word in our minds. But the ideas won't grow if people don't want to be good. (The different kinds of ground are like different kinds of people.) The mind of a person who wants to be good is like the good ground where the seeds grew well.
2. Are the Lord's seeds (idea seeds) growing in your mind? When you obey your parents, one of the Lord's seeds is growing. When you are nice to your friends, another seed is growing. When you do what is right, your mind is like good ground, and the Lord is the sower.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245 (promising to do the Lord's will, i.e., cultivating good seeds in our lives.)
2. "Moses went to Sinai's peak," *Hymnal* #187 (the commandments are some of the Lord's "Idea seeds").
3. "The Sower," from Tape I, *Lori's Songs for Little Children*, Side 1 (to be listened to during the project).

B. Activities (optional)

1. Act out the growth of the seeds and what happened to them.
 - a. Birds come to eat the seeds by the wayside.
 - b. Seeds on stony ground grow quickly but wilt in the sun.
 - c. Seeds choked by thorns.
 - d. Seeds on the good ground grow well and bring forth fruit.
2. Plant seeds in cups of dirt for the children to take home. (Choose seeds that grow quickly, such as grass seed.)

C. Project: A Collage of Soils and Seeds

1. Materials needed for each child
 - a. 9" x 12" piece of blue construction paper
 - b. Black strip of paper about 12" x 1" (wayside)
 - c. Gray strip of paper about 12" x 1" (stony ground)
 - d. Green strip of paper about 12" x 1" (thorns or weeds)
 - e. Brown strip of paper about 12" x 2 1/2"; you may want to cut one edge with curves to indicate mounds of soil. (good ground)
 - f. Text slip: "But other seeds fell on good ground."
 - g. Kernels of corn or other seeds
 - h. Oil pastels or crayons

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 18

2. Procedure

- a. Children glue black strip at the bottom of the page, then the gray strip, the green, and finally the brown.
- b. Draw plants growing up from the brown strip (good soil).
- c. Glue the text slip at the bottom.
- d. Glue on the seeds. Review the story once more, discussing what kind of ground each strip of paper represents.

3. Optional

If there is time, children may want to draw some stones on the gray strip and some thorns (or weeds) on the green strip.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the sower

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 5, Mark 4.
- B. *The Sower*. Vol. V, Mark 4:1-34.