



THE FOUR SOILS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 13:1-9 & 18-23

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

CASTING THE SEED

Supplies

a plastic drop cloth 1 ml or thicker (open it up at home and draw the different soils using a permanent marker)

Give the children each a handful of rice to cast over the soils. Have them try to get their seed into the good soil (the rice represents the seed). The rice should bounce around, landing all over the area.

Use the illustration to talk about each of the soils and what they represent from Matthew 13:18-23. Ask the children what kind of soil their lives represent. Spend some time as a class praying that God would soften our hearts and make them like fertile soil for the message of the Gospel.

LOOKING AT THE SOILS

Supplies

make a representation of the different soils for the felt board or draw them on the white board

Read Matthew 13:18-23 to the class and then ask them to describe each of the soils. They are likely not going to understand what many of the words such as tribulation, persecution, endures, or deceitfulness mean. Help them understand what these words mean and then what examples in their own lives might look like.

For instance, although they may not be persecuted in a significant way, they might be looked down upon for raising their hands in worship. Although they might not be caught up with the deceitfulness of wealth, they might be more interested in material things during Christmas than in remembering Jesus. Help them to see themselves in the parable. In the end, point them to the forgiveness available through Christ.

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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The Gospel is the Word of God that is represented by the seed. Ultimately the Gospel is the message that the world rejects, allows to be stolen away, or choked out by competing loves. Only God can prepare the heart to hear and believe His Word.

