

## THE FOUR SOILS

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



## The STORY

Read about parable of the four soils in Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is a sower? (A sower is a person who is planting seeds.)
- Why did the seed fall in a number of different places? (The sower in the parable is not planting seeds one at a time like a person who is planting a vegetable garden. The sower is planting seeds over a large field like a man would plant grass. The sower picks out a handful of seed and casts it about. Not all of the seed falls in the good soil.)
- What is the difference between good soil and rocky ground? (Good soil has been turned over with a shovel and all the rocks have been taken out. The seeds fall into little holes and hiding spots so the birds cannot easily find them and it is easy for the roots to grow deeper into the soil. The small holes and cavities shade the new roots from the scorching sun.)

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### CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: seeds on the path with good soil, weeds, rocks, and birds. Engage the children by asking:**

- What do the birds represent in the parable? (The birds represent Satan and his lies. While God's Word tells us God is good, Satan wants us to be deceived into believing just the opposite, that to follow God is oppressive and not fun at all.)
- What do the weeds represent? (The weeds represent those things that we love more than God.)
- What does the rocky soil represent? (The rocky soil represents the difficulties of life. When life gets hard we want to get relief as fast as we can, even if it does not come from God.)
- What does the fertile soil represent? (The good soil is a heart prepared by the Lord to believe His Word.)

### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- Why did Jesus teach this parable? (Jesus wanted to teach that just hearing the words of the Gospel doesn't make someone a Christian.)
- How is the Word of the Gospel (the Word of the Kingdom) like the casting of seed? (The Word is preached to many but only a few believe.)
- Why do we need God to help us to be like good soil? (Apart from God opening our hearts to believe His Word we will not understand the importance of the Gospel.)



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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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

