

## Activities for "Parable of the Sower and Seeds" - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (12<sup>th</sup> July)

Over the next 3 weeks we will be hearing parables that Jesus told about seeds. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning. Can you guess what the parables mean?

### Grow some seeds

Get some seeds that are easy to grow such as cress, beans, or sunflowers. Look around the garden for a good place to plant them. Consider a path or drive, a place with stones or gravel, a place with weeds/thorns, and a place with good soil. Alternatively, get 4 plant pots. Fill one with hard-packed soil, one with stones or gravel, one with weeds, and one with soil or compost. Which would be the best place for your seeds? Why? What might happen to the seeds in each place? How would you feel if your seeds didn't grow? How does it feel to watch them grow?

### Acting out the story

Imagine you are holding a seed. What does it look like? What does a seed need to grow? Pretend to dig a hole where the soil is good and deep, and plant it. Fill up an imaginary watering can and water it. Is anything stopping it growing? Are there any birds or slugs trying to eat it? Shoo them away. Is the soil nice and deep? Take out any stones in the way. Are there any weeds? Pull them out. The seed is starting to grow into a plant. What can you see? How big is it? Measure with your hand as the plant grows taller. What has it grown into?

### Sequencing pictures

Print off the "growing pictures" in the resources section. Cut the pictures into strips, muddle them up, and try and order them. Which picture shows the seeds before the birds ate them? Which picture shows how much the seeds among stones and thorns grew? Which picture shows the plants grown in good soil?

### Seed pictures

Draw some flowers or print off the "sunflower" picture. Stick seeds in the centre of the flowers, and colour in the petals, stem, and leaves. Thank God for flowers.

### Wondering

Rather than explaining the parable, wonder with your child about what it might mean. I wonder who the farmer could really be? I wonder how the farmer felt? I wonder what your favourite part was? I wonder what the hidden meaning in the story is? I wonder what Jesus was trying to teach people? Which of the seeds would you like to be? What things might stop your love for God growing?