

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

Story: The Parable of the Sower

Workshop: King's Theatre

Purpose: The students will learn why some people follow Jesus and others don't. Why it is important to listen to the Word of God? Through Bible reading and discussion, the students will learn to define a parable. They will act out the Parable of the Sower and the Seed in their own words and be able to explain that Jesus told parables to help us understand more about the Kingdom of God. Give examples of how we can share the Good News

Preparation: Read the background information to the lesson.
Bible study on the passage: Luke 8: 4-21

Materials: Bibles
Costumes
Props for Commercials
Video Camera

Advanced Prep: Have costumes, props and video camera ready to use.

Presentation: Introduce yourself, welcome the children.
Open with prayer – may use your own prayer, or the one below, or a combination:
Dear Lord, help us to listen to Your Word with our ears and our hearts, so that we may learn more about Your Love so our Faith will grow. Help us to live our faith and remember Your Love as we go through each day.

Review the Parable of the Sower.

Discussion: Jesus often taught in stories called parables. The Parable of the Sower talks about hearing and obeying God's word.

Who knows what a parable is? *A parable is a story that teaches a lesson by comparing things.*

When Jesus taught, he often used stories about familiar things. These stories helped Jesus' listeners understand his message about God.

Tell them that the Parable of the Sower is about Jesus speaking the word of God to the people.

Tell them you'll be asking "what the story means" after they read it.

Turn to Luke 8: 4 Read verses 4 – 8

Who is the Sower? ...*Jesus (younger kids may need "sower" defined)*

What is the seed? *Word of God*

What do the path, rocks, soil under the thorns and good soil represent? *Those who hear the word, others and us.*

What happens when the seed falls upon the rock? *Seed sprouts but withers.*

Why? *Plants aren't nurtured.*

What can cause a person to believe in Jesus' words, but then have their faith wither? *Not going to church, not studying the Bible, not practicing their faith.*

What happens when the seed falls upon hard path? *Seeds get trampled.*

What things can trample a person's faith? *Bad things happening to them and the ones they love*

What do the birds represent? *Things which pick away at your faith, or take the word away from you.*

What might that be in your life? *Friends who make fun of you, people who don't treat you well in class, interruptions to taking time out to read the Bible and pray.*

What happens when it grows up among thorns? *Choked off.*

What kind of problems can the thorns represent? *Bad choices, selfishness, negative peer pressure, staying up late on Saturday Night, arguing about what to wear to church.*

What makes a soil good to grow a seed in? *Nutrients, water, sun, gardener.*

Who gives us light to help our faith grow? *God.*

What things, actions can nourish your faith? *Going to church, reading Bible.*

What things support our faith and keep it from withering? *Others, service, prayer.*

Memory Verse: Luke 8: 8b "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Activity: Make and videotape COMMERCIALS selling "products or services that help us learn God's Word."

Assign these or allow them to come up with their own products based on the Bible study you just conducted and the problems they stated that could keep someone from receiving the word of God and letting it grow in them.

Word of God Soil Conditioner
Weed Whacker for the Word
Bird BEGONE
Saturday In Bed by Eleven Snoozo-matic Pillow
Sunday morning Bed Launcher

Basics of each commercial

A prop of some sort. An announcer, someone acting out a faith problem, then showing them with the prop solving their problem.

State the problem facing their faith "Staying up too late, need to feel bright and ready for God's word? Then get the "Saturday In Bed by Eleven Snoozo-matic Pillow."

Tell each to come up with at least five sentences for their 15 to 30 second commercial.

Watch the video and finish by having each person identify a problem that is holding back their faith growth.

Pray for Seed, Rain, and Help!