

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

Story: The Parable of the Sower

Workshop: Let There Be Art

Adapted from one written by Neil MacQueen

Purpose: Through art development, the students will understand the Parable of the Sower and why Jesus would tell the story and how it might be told today.

Materials:

- Four colours of non-drying modelling clay: brown, tan, blue, green.
- Flat real seeds
- A bag of Spanish moss or similar thin/flat weed like plant
- Utensils to work the clay and position elements in the clay
- 4x6 Plastic box picture frames, one for each child (the inexpensive kind that has a cardboard box insert. The plastic box is about 1" high.
- 4x6 blank white index cards
- smocks
- sticky labels and markers.

Advanced Prep: Assemble the supplies for the lesson. Do a sample project. Read the background notes to the unit. Study the Bible passage: Luke 8: 4-21.

Presentation: Welcome the children and introduce yourself. Tell the children that they will be learning about the Parable of the Sower.

See how much of the Parable they know. Write out various things they say are in the parable on different pieces of construction paper and post on the board. See if they can get them in the correct order and also decide which belong/don't belong, or need better description than was originally given. Vote to decide final order and final descriptions. (Younger kids may need you to draw pictograms instead of words of what they think is in the parable).

Tell them to open their Bibles and read the Parable, Luke 8: 4-8, to see if they were right about order/content.

Discuss the meaning of the various soils, plants, seeds, and birds in the parable and assign meaning to each part.

Ask them to identify how each of them might sometimes be a seed planted by God, good soil, bad soil, bird and weed.

Memory Verse – review Luke 8: 8b “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Art Activity

1. Show the students a sample project.
2. Put the frames aside and give each student a 4x6 blank white index card.
3. **Have the students put on art shirts** as the clay might stain their clothes.

Project Description: Students recreate the Sower "scene" on their 4x6 card and place the card face down inside the plastic picture frame and put the cardboard insert back in to make take-home Sower Art.

Students SMEAR the coloured modelling clay to make ground, sky, etc. Place the seeds, weeds. Encourage them to clearly show through use of clay colors and shapes the various soils. ***Keep the clay layer relatively THIN so the card fits snugly in the picture frame between the plastic cover and cardboard back.* The smearing technique works surprisingly well and is fun to do.

Remember to keep reinforcing the story elements as they work with the materials. Ask each individual a question or two as they are working.

Reflection:

-Why do you think that this parable was particularly powerful when Jesus told it? *Most people grew their own food and could easily relate to it.*

-Jesus told his parables so that the people could easily relate to them. How would you change this parable so that other children your age could easily relate to it?

Seeds trying to grow--- a child trying to learn to ride a bike

Rocky soil --- rocky uphill path,

Dry soil --- parking lot with huge potholes

Place where the seeds grow --- a nice flat sidewalk

Have the students share their work, then have them write a summary or key line from the passage on a label that sticks on the back of the frame

Have each student describe a special place they can hang or position their work to remind them about being open and growing in God's word each day.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to listen to Your Word so we may grow in faith as the seeds in the good soil.

Why we like this project: It is very tactile; allows for individual self-expression of the story; adjust to each grade group; is a good display-able "go home" project that can create after the lesson discussion; it's fun.

About the frames: We thought NO glass, and opted for very inexpensive acrylic box picture frames you can find everywhere. We choose to use box frames for their depth knowing the clay and other objects will add some bulk and most traditional picture frames are designed for a photograph's width, not a layer of clay. Box frames are also cheap, stand up on their own, and the acrylic frame/cover will keep hands from picking at the clay after class.