

# **LIFE OF CHRIST**

from the gospel of

# **Mark**

## **LESSON 14**

### **THE STORY OF THE SEEDS & SOILS**

### **MARK 4:1-20**

# Life of Christ

## The Story of the Seeds & Soil

## Mark 4:1-20

### Younger Verse

They hear the teaching and accept it.

Mark 4:20

### Older Verse

They hear the teaching and accept it. Then they grow and produce fruit.

Mark 4:20

### Lesson Goals

**Learn about the different ways people respond to God's message**  
**Recognize the things that can turn us away from God**  
**Understand the importance of growing in Christ and bearing fruit**

### Opener

*When you go to Bible Study, do you remember what you learn? Do you use what you learn in the choices you make? When we remember Jesus' words as we live our lives, we will have good results.*

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus taught the people that it is important to love and help people, no matter what day it is. One way we can help people is to share the Good News about Jesus with them. We can tell them that Jesus died for our sins and rose again three days later!

Jesus had healed people of their sicknesses. People began to follow Him. One time Jesus was teaching many people by the lake. In fact, the crowd was so big that He got into a boat and sat in it to teach the people. He taught them many things by using stories that had meanings. They were called **parables**.

This is the story that Jesus shared with them: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. While he was planting, the seeds fell in four different places. *The first seeds fell on some hard dirt on a path.* Some birds flying up above came down and ate those seeds. *Some seeds fell on soil that had many rocks in it.* The seeds grew up very fast, but because of all the rocks, the roots could not grow very deep. When the sun came out, the plants burned up and died. *Other seeds fell on some ground with thorny weeds.* The weeds grew just as the good plants grew. The weeds grew so much that they stopped the good plants from growing. The good plants were not able to produce any grain. *Still other seeds fell on good, healthy soil.* The seeds had plenty of room to grow. They grew to produce a large harvest of grain."

The disciples could not figure out what Jesus wanted them to learn, so they asked Him about it. Jesus said, "Don't you understand this story?" Then He told them the meaning of the parable. Jesus said that the farmer is like a person who tells people about God. The seeds are the Word of God. The four types of soil are different hearts people have. Remember the first seeds that got eaten by the birds? Those are people that hear about God, but then the devil comes and takes away what the people just heard. Remember the seeds that fell in the soil with the rocks in it? They grew fast, but then died because their roots did not grow deep enough. These are like people who are excited about what they

learn at first, but they do not remember or use what they learn. They don't keep growing, so when hard times come, they turn away from God.

Remember the seeds that fell in with the weeds? As the weeds grew up with the plants, they kept the good plants from growing and producing grain. These people hear about God's teachings. But then they begin to worry about things in their life, want more money, and want more stuff for themselves. These things stop the people from growing closer to God. Because they are focused on other things, they do not help others to know God.

Remember the seeds that fell on the good, healthy soil? This soil allows the seed to grow deep roots. It is not rocky or full of weeds. People with hearts like this hear God's Word and understand it. They learn about Jesus and trust Him with their lives. They go to church and read their Bibles. They begin to grow as Christians. As they grow, God uses them to help others know Him. That is what it means to produce fruit!

If we want to be like the group that grew and produced grain, then we have to do our job. We need to remember what we learn about Jesus. We need to invite Him to be in our lives, and then grow closer to Him each day. If you need to know how to invite Jesus into your life, please ask.

#### Review Questions

1. What were the four types of soil? (The path, rocky soil, soil with weeds, and good soil)
2. What did Jesus mean by the soil with weeds? (The weeds are like the worries and cares of this life—they choke out the Word of God in our lives)
3. How can we have hearts like the good soil? (Listening and obeying God's Word; remembering what we learn)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for giving us ways to learn about Him. Pray that we will remember the things we learn and want to have a relationship with Him that is strong.

#### Life Application

**As children, it is important to keep growing. Kids need milk and healthy foods to grow strong. When we become adults, we stop growing taller. But in our spiritual lives, we should never stop growing. There is always more to learn about God. He has so much for us to learn! It is good to know the basics, like how to become a Christian, and that Jesus died and rose again. But that is just the beginning!**

**Think about babies. They need milk because they cannot eat solid food. But when they grow up, they can eat steak, hamburgers, etc. It is good to know about the "milk" of being a Christian. But don't we want to get to the "steak?" We have to keep growing in our walk with God by learning more about the Bible and what it's all about. If you don't have a desire to grow, pray about it. God can help you to have a heart that wants to grow and produce fruit!**

Planning for Lesson 15  
The Lamp & Mustard Seed  
Mark 4:21-25, 30-34

## **Preschool Lesson for The Story of the Seeds & Soil**

*(For today's lesson, bring seeds or dry beans, dirt or soil, rocks, grassy weeds, and 4 cups or bowls.)*

Hello, boys and girls! One time Jesus told a story about a farmer. Today we are going to imagine we are on a farm! Our job today will be to plant some seeds. (Pass out the seeds to the children.) I have four places that I want them to grow and produce more seeds. This is the first place. *(Use an empty cup or bowl.)* Everybody put their seeds in. What will happen to these seeds? Are they going to grow? No! If some birds were flying above they would swoop down and eat them.

Okay. Let's try another place. *(Use a cup or bowl with soil and rocks in it.)* Everybody drop their seeds in here. This cup has soil and rocks in it. Do y'all think they will grow? Yes, they will, but not for very long, because the rocks are in there. The roots won't be able to spread around in the dirt. When the sun comes out, our plants will die.

Well, let's try another place. *(Use a cup or bowl with soil and some other grass or weeds in it.)* Everybody drop your seeds in. This cup has soil, but it also has some weeds in it. Weeds are bad plants. Nobody wants them. Do you think these seeds will grow? Yes, they will. But soon the weeds will stop the new plants from growing because they will choke them.

Wow guys, so far I have not been able to get these plants to make more seeds. Let's try this last one. *(Use a cup or bowl with just soil in it.)* This cup has good, healthy soil. Everybody put your seeds in. So do you think this one will grow? Yes, it sure will. Do you think it will be able to make more seeds? Yes, it can. That is exactly what I was looking for.

Jesus told that story because He wanted us to be like one group. Which group do you think Jesus wants us to be like? Yes, the last one, because it grew and made more seeds. Whenever we learn about Jesus, which is how we grow, it is very important to share it with other people. When we share we are making more seeds.

Something very exciting that we can share is that Jesus loves us. He loves us so much that He died on the cross and came back to life. When He did that, He made a way for us to be with Him in Heaven. Let's think of some people we can share this Good News with.

**Hands-on Activities  
for  
The Story of the Seeds & Soil**

Bring different kinds of seeds and see if the kids can figure out which fruit or vegetable contains the seed.

If possible, take some birdseed outside and let the children toss it around. As the birds come down, remind the students that we don't want the devil to take away God's Word from our heart.

Make a heart out of construction paper. Have the kids write the Bible verse on it. Talk about ways to let God's word grow in our hearts.

Sing "The Fruit of the Spirit" song. Discuss what it means to bear fruit in our lives.

**They hear the  
teaching and  
accept it.  
Mark 4:20**



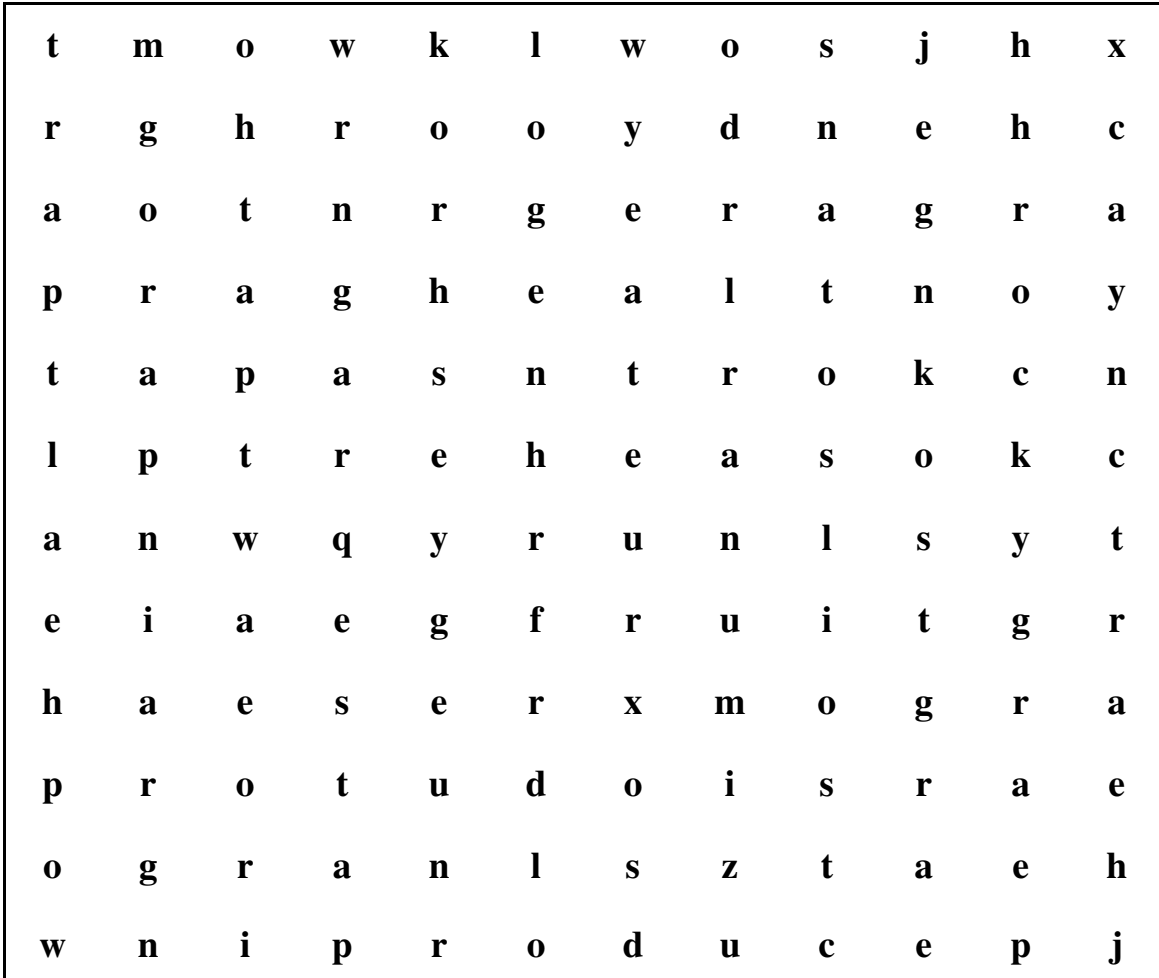
They hear the teaching  
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Mark 4:20



# Word Search

## The Story of the Seeds & Soil

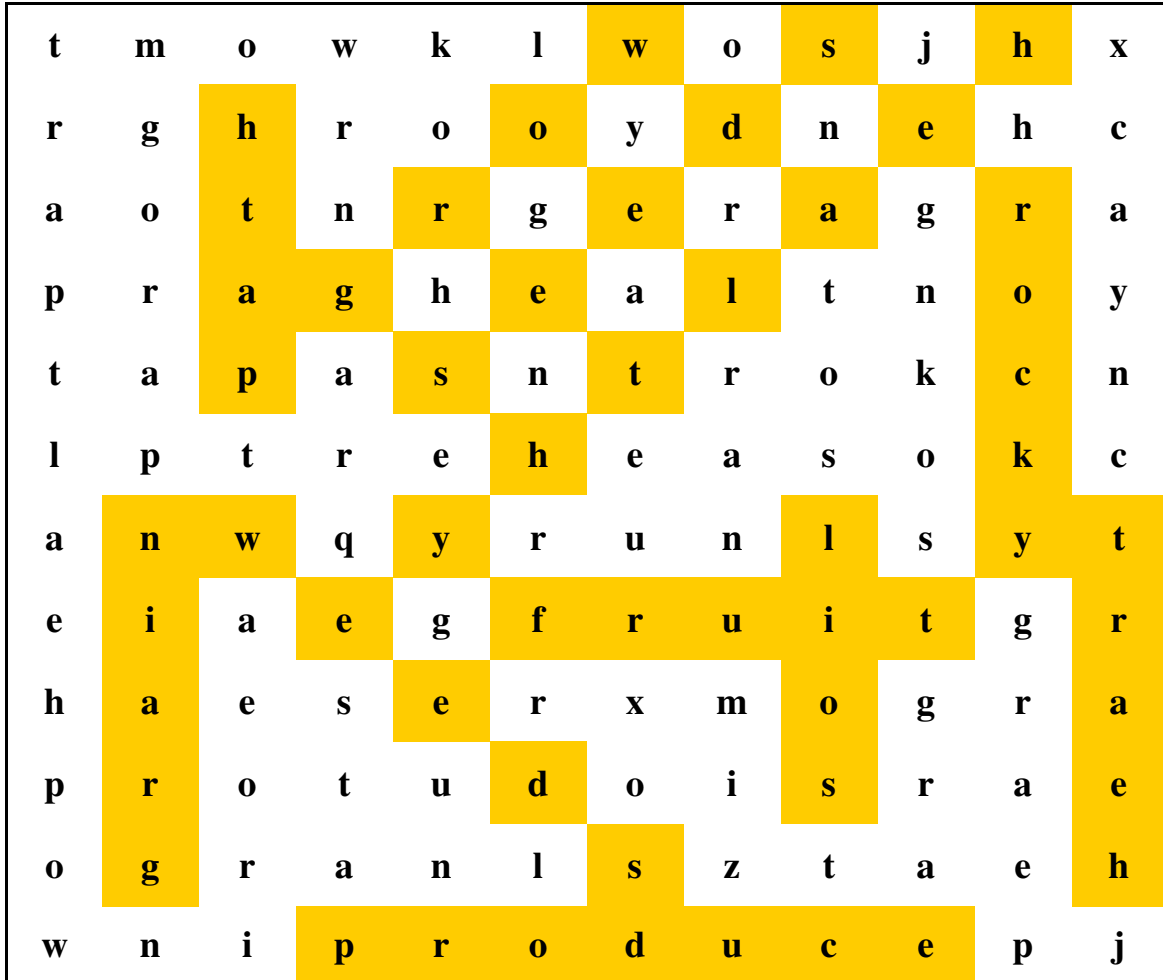


seeds	soil	weeds
rocky	path	healthy
grain	fruit	produce
heart	grow	



# Word Search

## The Story of the Seeds & Soil



seeds	soil	weeds
rocky	path	healthy
grain	fruit	produce
heart	grow	

Jesus sometimes taught  
stories called

P\_\_RA\_\_LES



*Jesus wants us to*

GROW

*closer to Him*