

Bible in 52 Weeks-Week 27

Parable of the Sower



Share your highs/lowes and God moments (where did you see God today or this week?). Our theme this week is being rooted in God and God's word. What do you know about roots? What do they do? Do you feel rooted in God and/or God's word? Why or why not?



Matthew 13: 1-23 This can be divided into three sections: 1-9, 10-17 and 18-23 It can be found in the Spark Storybook Bible on page 292.

Conversation Starters:

For children:

- Have you ever planted a seed? What do seeds/plants need to grow?
- What is your favorite plant (or fruit or vegetable)? Do you know where it grows?
- How is learning about God like watering and caring for a plant?
- If seeds are like God's love, where should we "scatter" God's love? Only places where we think the seeds might grow?
- How is your family and your church family like "good soil?"
- Can you be "good soil" for someone else who doesn't know about God?

For youth/adults:

- Seed is expensive and yet, this sower scatters it without care. What would it look like if the church did this? What does this mean for evangelism, or sharing the good news, if we are to be like this sower? Do we control what happens to the seed after we scatter it?
- Who provided "good soil" to you growing up? Why do you think that has been important in your faith journey?
- Why do you think that Jesus spoke to the disciples in parables?
- How is this parable like Jesus?

- What can help us to have our eyes see and our ears hear?
- We don't discuss "evil" or "satan" much in the modern Lutheran tradition. (Martin Luther discussed this often!) What or who do you think could be the "evil one" that Jesus is talking about in verse 19? Do you picture someone truly all bad or could it be more nuanced than that? (Ex. Seeds may not take root because the "evil one" could simply be our own ego, or ambition.)
- What helps us to be "good soil" for God's word and love to really take root in us?
- Once the seed has strong roots and grows, what do plants most often do? (Pollenate!) How can we be like healthy plants in the world with God's love?
- What do you think it means to bear fruit? Why do you think this is important to Jesus?
- Plants require tending and patience. How is your faith journey like a plant or a garden? Do you all of the sudden spring up and bear fruit? Or is there a process and a season for that?

Activities for all:

- As you can imagine, a "gimmee" activity for this parable is to grow something from seeds! This particular lesson has been written in March, so perhaps if your household gardens you have starters beginning this month. If not go to the store, get some seeds (cosmos grow VERY well I'm told!) and see if you can grow them! Perhaps try more rocky soil versus "good soil" and make note of the differences in you journal.
- Service: Collect food for a pantry. We support MetroCaring in Denver and our childcare center (BECC) supports "A Fresh Harvest" in Douglas County. We can't grow in God's love if our basic needs are not met!
- Clean up a park or open space by your home. People need to know that their community is valued in order for them to feel valued too!
- Find one or two Bible passages that are meaningful for you in your daily life. Have the passage be short enough to memorize and to write on a sticky note. Repeat this verse (or verses) in the morning, at noon and at night for a week. See how this verse changes, deepens or resonates differently with you from the beginning of the week to the end. Use your journal to capture your thoughts.
- Game for young children: Have them curl up in a little ball to be like a seed. Take a watering can (empty! Unless you are outside!) and "water" them in God's love by saying "Hear that God loves you!" and gently pat them on the head. When they feel the pat on the head, they can "grow" a little bit. Repeat until they have completely "sprung" up!



Pray for one another's highs/lows/God moments. Pray to be good soil for those around you and to bear the fruit of God's love. Give thanks for those who have been good soil for you! Write those people a note of gratitude this week and that you have prayed for them.



+Bear the fruit of God's love+