

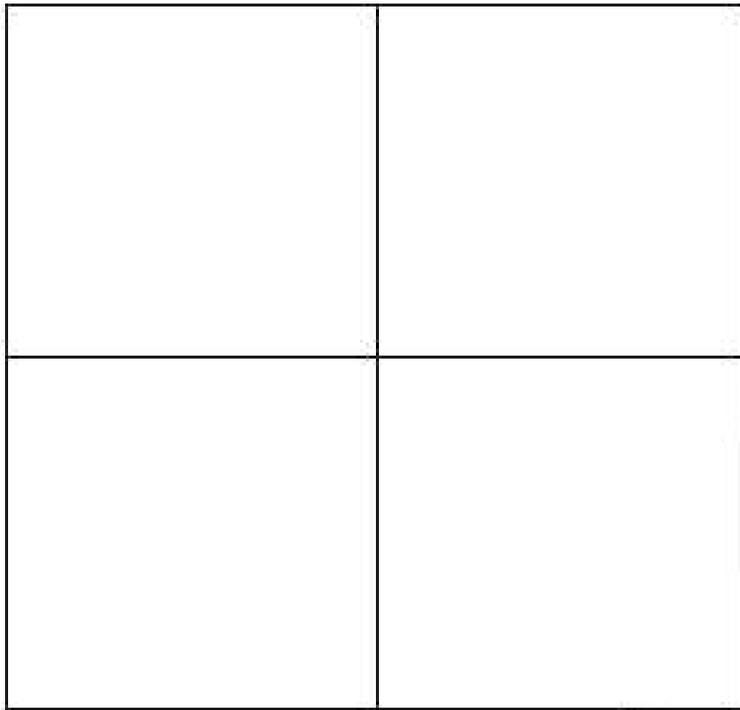
The Parable of Sower

Jesus told another story told to a large crowd. A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered the seeds across his field, some seed fell on the path, some seed fell on rocky soil, some fell among thorns and some fell on good soil. The seed is God's word. The soil represents us and how we respond to God's word.



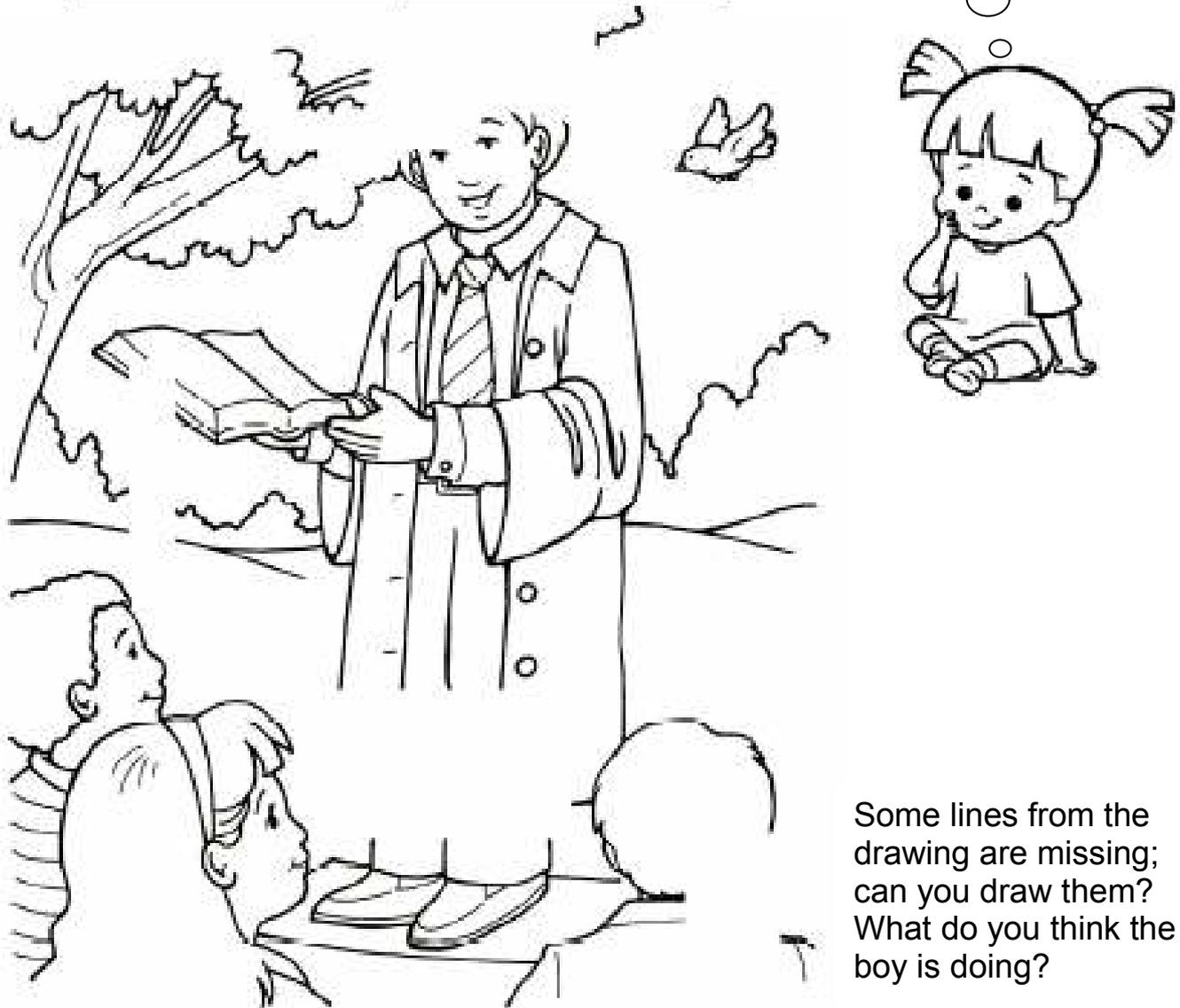
But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:15



Draw a picture of the four types of soil.

Which of the four places where the seed fell was good and why?



Some lines from the drawing are missing; can you draw them? What do you think the boy is doing?

Lesson 17

The Parable of Sower

Bible Text: Luke 8:1-15 or Matthew 13:1-23

Key Verse: Luke 8:15

Purpose: The children will understand the importance of being a fruitful Christian.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

I. Lesson

Before working on the coloring page, tell the children about the story of the farmer scattering seed. To better illustrate the lesson, use some simple props. Use a small rug to make the footpath. On one side of the rug (footpath) put two flower pots or two planters. In one flower pot put soil and in the second put weeds and thorns. Also a rock or heavy stone should be in view. You will also need some seeds. This scenery will help the children to understand the lesson.

Dear children, perhaps you wonder why we need this scenery? Well, today we will talk about a story that Jesus told. We find this story in the Bible (you show the Bible to them) in the book of Luke 8:1-15. In this story Jesus talks about a farmer who went out to plant some seed. (The teacher plays the role of the farmer). On his field there were several different types of soil: there was rocky soil (point to the rock), there were places with thorns (show the flower pot with the thorns and weeds), and there was also good soil (show them the flower pot with the soil in it). He scattered his seed (the teacher throws seeds making sure that some of them will fall on the rug which is the footpath, on the rock, in the flower pots). But it was stepped on by those walking by (bring the children to trample the seed), and it never grew. The seed which fell on the rock did not grow either for lack of moisture. So it withered. The seed which fell among thorns and weeds did not grow either, because the thorns shot up and choked out the tender blades. But take a look at the seed which fell on the good soil! (The teacher shows the flower pot filled with soil. The children will be paying attention to you.) The seed in the good soil can grow and produce a crop. It rains (the teacher pours water on the seeds), the seed sends out roots and so the plant sprouts and grows. (You can show them a flower pot with a nice plant in it). (This method can be used for all the children. They will better understand the lesson. Then you can go on to the second part of the lesson, when the children will understand what Jesus meant when he told this story. Take the Bible and read from Luke 8:1-15 or Matthew 13:1-23, pointing out the symbols: The farmer is the one who tells others about God. The seed is God's word. The soil represents people.)

II. Activities.

1. The Key Verse

a. Read the key verse out loud.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15

b. Explain the verse

The seed – represents God’s word (verse 11)

The good soil – represents honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word (verse 15)

c. Help the children memorize the verse.

2. Review questions for the children:

- What are the four types of soil?
- Who is the farmer?
- What does the seed that falls on the footpath represent?
- What does the seed that falls on the rock represent?
- What does the seed that falls among the thorns represent?
- What does the seed that falls on good soil represent?
- Why does the seed grow only on good soil?
- What does the harvest mean?

3. Conclusion

Sometimes it is not easy to scatter seed, because the seed might not sprout or produce a crop. But, what might happen if all farmers would be afraid of failure? We would not have any crops. Farmers sow their fields hoping that there will be a crop. The same thing happens with those who share God’s message. Their job is not to count the crops, but to sow the seed.

You are a type of soil, too. You heard God’s word today. How will you receive this “seed”? If you are like the seed in the good soil, you will have a good harvest of good deeds. And some day you can be a “farmer” too in God’s field.