

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

LESSON 4: SEEDS THAT FALL ON GOOD SOIL

The fourth Sunday school lesson in this series focuses on the sower's seeds that fall on good soil. The children will discover how the wonderful the Word of God helps us grow spiritually and gives us everlasting life with Jesus.

TOPICS

Eternal Life, Parables, Witnessing, Spiritual Growth

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

You will need to have a small watermelon (not a seedless watermelon) cut up into several pieces. There should be one small piece of watermelon for each child. As the children eat the watermelon have them place all the watermelon seeds into a single bowl. Have them guess how many seeds may be in the bowl.

Then, count the seeds and say, "Isn't it amazing that when we plant just one watermelon seed we get this delicious watermelon full of all these additional watermelon seeds! If we planted all of these seeds, we would have more watermelon than we would know what to do with!"

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.' " Matthew 9:36-37 NIV

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

This is the final lesson of the series. Today we will read the story about the seed that fell on good soil. It grew very well, in fact it grew so well that it produced more seed. These seeds also grew to be strong plants. As Christians we should be sharing our faith with others, that way other people will hear the Good News and they may become Christian. The body of Christ continues to grow when we share seeds (the Good News) with others.

Matthew 13:8,9; 23 (Parable of the Sower - seed that fell on good soil)

Give each child a copy of the handout (**ATTACHED**) or have the kids find Matthew 13:8,9; 23 in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the passage or if you prefer, read the passage to the children yourself.

Discussion Questions:

1. In our story today, where did the seeds fall? (*Good soil.*)
2. What happened to the seed that fell on good soil? (*It produced a crop -- a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*)
3. How does the seed falling on good soil compare to us being a Christian? (We need to share our faith with others so they can become Christians. This also helps us grow spiritually.)

4. Is this an important message? How do we know? (*Yes, Jesus said "He who has ears, let him hear."*)
5. How can we share the Good News about Jesus with others? (*Tell them, pray for them, share the Good News out of the Bible, ask them to come to Sunday school.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

Ask A Friend (Object Talk)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

Fake Flowers (Object Talk)

APPLICATION (2 minutes)

Those who hear the Good News and take it to heart, can accept the free gift of salvation from Jesus Christ. We should live a productive life for our Lord. Please note that we cannot work our way into heaven, but if Jesus is the Lord of our lives we will want to live for Him. We will follow His rules and tell other people about Him. We won't be perfect, and we will still make mistakes, but we will try our best to live a life that is pleasing to God.

NEXT WEEK

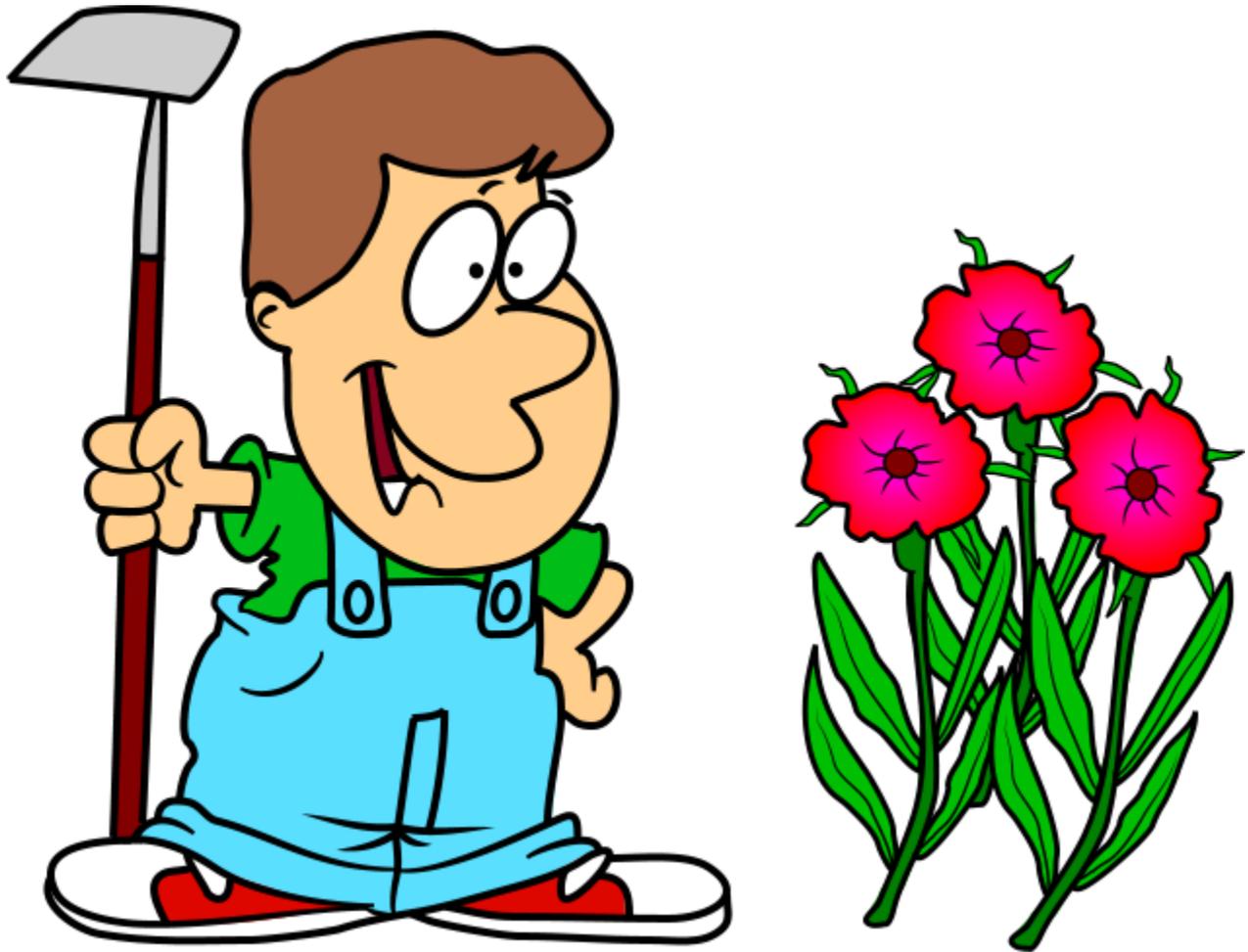
CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS:** Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.
- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN:** With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.
- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS:** Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.
- **SCRAMBLED:** Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.

Parable of the Sower

Seeds that fell on good soil



Matthew 13:8-9, 23

"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Application:

Those who hear the Good News, take it to heart and accept the free gift of salvation from Jesus Christ. We should live a productive life for our Lord. Please note that we cannot work our way into heaven, but if Jesus is the Lord of our lives we will want to live for Him. We will follow His Rules and tell other people about Him. We won't be perfect and we will still make mistakes, but we will try our best to live a life that is pleasing to God.