

The directions to put the book together that is in a PDF format is as follows:

After printing the seven pages, take the cover page and fold it in half (bifold) so that the title and picture is on the top. Next, take the other six pages and fold them in half as well making sure you can see the words on the outside. These pages will get stacked on each other with the open edge on the left hand side and the folded edge on the right. Then, insert all the pages into the cover (open edges in so they touch the cover's fold). Lastly, close the cover over the pages and then staple the book down the left hand side. The top half of each page is blank so that your child can illustrate them or feel free to use your own clip art.

Below, you will find the story if you choose to just read it orally and not print it off.

There once was a farmer who was planting, or **sowing**, seeds in his garden. Some of the seeds he planted fell on stony ground. These seeds began to grow quickly into plants, but they did not have any roots because of the rocky soil. The plants could not get any food or water from the soil; therefore, they died. Other seeds the farmer tried to plant fell in among **thorns**. These seeds could not grow because they were **choked** out. In other words, they had no room to grow into plants. However, many seeds fell in good soil. These seeds grew into beautiful plants. They **produced** lovely flowers, tasty vegetables, and delicious fruit. The best part is the flowers, fruit, and vegetables **produce** new seeds. These seeds can be planted again to make new plants in the **future** for the farmer to enjoy.

The meaning of this parable is that the word of God (YHWH) is the seed that the farmer sowed. The seed that fell in the stony ground is when the Word of God (YHWH) is heard by people who receive the message and immediately like what they hear, but they have no roots, or background understanding, and the message falls away from them rather quickly. The seed that fell in amongst the thorns is like the person who hears the Word, but is unwilling to listen and the message itself becomes useless. The seed that falls on good soil is like when a person hears the Word of God (YHWH) and understands it, and then most importantly, changes how they live to please the LORD. Those people then go out and plant new seeds so the Kingdom of God (YHWH) continues to grow and flourish.

New Vocabulary for this story:

sowing - planting or scattering seeds, to spread an idea

thorns - a sharp point on a plant stem

choked - prevents plants from growing because of lack of space, air, and light

produce - to make something or cause something to happen

future - time that is yet to come

Activities for the Parable of the Sower

*Bring in bowls of various soil types (sandy, rocky, weedy, potting soil or compost, etc.). Have the children feel each soil type and describe it. Discuss if it would be good to plant seeds in or not. Relate each type of soil to the parable and discuss its meaning. (See chart below if needed.)

Soil	Meaning
The Path	Hears the word, does not understand it, and the evil one snatches it away
Rocky Soil	Hears the word, receives it with joy, but falls away under persecution
Thorny Soil	Hears the word but is choked by the cares of the world
Good Soil	Hears the word, understands it, and produces a lot of fruit

Next have the children plant seeds in each soil type and water it. (Radish or bean seeds work well as they grow quickly.) Have the students keep a daily journal and write/draw what they discover in each soil type. Discuss their findings each day.

*Save seeds from various fruits and vegetables (i.e. green beans, watermelon, green peppers, sunflower, pumpkin, tomatoes, corn, peas, etc.). Bring the seeds in and have the children try to figure out what food they came from. Depending on the age of the children you are working with, you may want pictures of the various fruits and vegetables the seeds came from. You can also provide the actual fruit/vegetable itself and then afterwards cut them open to check

their predictions. After they have completed the activity you can then enjoy the food together.

***DLTK's Crafts for Kids:** www.dltk.com
Learn About Flowers Craft

A great project to do after this craft is to grow a bean seed in a clear plastic cup (put the seed near the edge of the cup so you can see what happens to it!) Draw pictures or take photos as the plant develops. Tasha even got a REAL BEAN off hers (she took it to school for show and tell).



Materials:

- paper
- something to color with
- scissors
- glue

Instructions:

- Draw and color the parts of a flower and cut them out (see picture above).
- Glue the stem into the soil.
- Glue the roots under the stem.
- Glue the leaves onto the stem.

- Glue the flower onto the top of the stem.
- Talk about the different parts as the child glues the plant together (see below).

The simple version (for preschool children):

The flowers attract bees and make seeds. The leaves soak up the sunlight and turn it into food. The roots soak up water and attach the plant to the ground. The stem moves food and water to the different parts of the plant and holds up the leaves and flowers.

The more complicated version (for older children):

THE INTRO:

Plants are made up of different parts. Each part has a specific function. There are seven basic requirements that plants need in order to grow properly: temperature, light, water, air, nutrients, time, and room to grow.

LEAVES:

Photosynthesis means to "put together using light". A plant's leaves use sunlight to turn carbon dioxide from the air, and water into food. Plants need all of these to remain healthy. When the plant gets enough of these things, it produces a simple sugar, which it uses immediately or stores in a converted form of starch. We don't know exactly how this happens. But we do know that chlorophyll, the green substance in the leaves, helps it to occur.

ROOTS:

The roots help provide support by anchoring the plant and absorbing water and nutrients needed for growth. They can also serve as storage organs for sugars and carbohydrates the plant uses to carry out other

functions. Plants can have either a primary tap root system (such as carrots) or a fibrous root system (such as the plant we grew).

STEMS:

Stems allow water and nutrients absorbed by the roots to travel to the leaves, and then the food produced by the leaves is able to move to other parts of the plant.

The cells that do this work and are housed in the stems are called the xylem cells (move water) and phloem cells (move food).

Stems also provide support for the plant allowing the leaves to reach the sunlight they need to produce food.

FLOWERS:

Flowers may look like just another pretty face, but in fact, are important in the production of seeds.

Female flowers have a pistil. The pistil usually is located in the center of the flower and is composed of three parts: the stigma, style, and ovary. The stigma is the sticky knob at the top of the pistil. It is attached to the long, tubelike structure called the style. The style leads to the ovary which contains the female egg cells called ovules.

Male flowers have stamens. The stamen is composed of two parts: the anther and filament. The anther produces pollen and the filament holds it up.

Some flowers are male and female. In this case, the stamen surrounds the pistil.

Petals are also important parts of the flower because they help attract pollinators (like bees and butterflies).

WHAT IF's...

What would happen to your plant if you...

- stopped giving it water?
- dropped it into an ocean?
- stuck it in the dark?
- pulled it out of the dirt?
- put it in the refrigerator?
- put it in the freezer?
- put it in the oven?

Why?

*Teach the following song:

Little Seed...

sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Little seed so small and round

Pushed way down into the ground.

With water and some sunshine glow

God will help you grow,

grow, *GROW!*

*The following activities also came from DLTk's website:

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/mazes/c-maze-sower2.gif>

Sower and the Seed Word Search

W A T E R N C W

T N A L P B R O

S E E D S X O R

Y R E W O S P G

crop
grow
plant
seeds
sower
water



Sower and the Seed Maze

Help the seed find the healthy flowers.





