

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Move around the room:** As you tell the story, walk through the audience as though you are the sower scattering seed. Walk up and down rows of kids.
- **Use sound effects:** Call for volunteers to make sound effects as you describe the types of soil. Direct them to caw like birds, make sizzling sounds like the hot sun, stomp their feet for the thorns, and clap for the good ground.

## Parable of the Sower

*Matthew 13:1-9,18-23*

Jesus traveled around from one town and village to another. In each place, He preached the good news about the kingdom of God. Crowds of people came to listen to Jesus' teaching. **One day, Jesus was sitting by the sea. So many people came to hear Him that Jesus got into a boat and sat down to teach.** The crowds stood on the shore to listen.

Jesus said, **"A sower went out to plant seeds. As he was planting, some seeds fell along the path. Soon, the birds came and ate up the seeds from the path. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there wasn't much soil. The seeds sprouted quickly, but they did not have any roots because the soil was shallow. When the sun came up, the plants withered. Other seeds fell among thorns. The thorns grew, and they stopped the seeds from growing. But some of the seeds fell on good ground. Those seeds grew and produced a crop, more than what was planted!"**

Then Jesus explained the parable to His disciples. He said, **"Some people hear the truth about God's kingdom, but they don't understand it. The Evil One comes and takes away what was planted in their hearts. Those people are like the seeds that fell on the path.**

**"Some people hear the truth about God's kingdom, and they are happy to accept it. But when hard times come, they give up. Those people are like the seeds that fell on rocky ground.**

**"Some people hear the truth about God's kingdom, but they worry about this life and they love money too much. The truth cannot grow. Those people are like the**

seeds that fell among thorns.

**“But some people hear the truth about God’s kingdom, and they understand it. They accept the truth, and it grows in their lives. Those people are like the seeds that fell on good ground. Those seeds produce a crop, more than what was planted.”**

*Christ Connection: Jesus is the Sower who shared the truth about God’s kingdom. His followers continue to share the truth today, and those who understand and accept the gospel become more like Jesus.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Jesus taught that not everyone who hears the gospel believes it. But anyone who does believe in the Lord Jesus will be saved. (Acts 16:31) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Scattered Seeds

Unscramble the seeds to discover the message.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ that

P B A L E R A

S O Y R T

Jesus told to \_\_\_\_\_ people

P L E H

understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of

N I G K M O D

\_\_\_\_\_.

O G D

Jesus told a \_\_\_\_\_ about

B L E P A R A

how people \_\_\_\_\_ to the

P O N D S E R

\_\_\_\_\_.

P E L S O G

# Action Reaction

Draw a face to show how each situation might make you feel. Then compare your reactions with a friend.



joy



sadness



anger



fear

1. The concert you hoped to attend is sold out.

2. Your cousin is coming to visit for a week.

3. You missed the bus that takes you to school.

4. Your parents announce your family is moving.



# Four Soils

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Count the plants below.



DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP

**KEY PASSAGE:** Mark 6:34

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

- Jesus told a story to teach people about sharing the good news about God with others.
- The story was about a farmer planting seeds.
- Only the seeds planted in good soil grew strong and healthy.
- Jesus taught that not all people will believe in Him.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- What did the story Jesus told about the seeds really mean?
- Who can you tell the good news about Jesus?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Scatter wildflower seeds in a field. Predict which areas the seeds will grow best in.
- Start a community garden. Share produce among neighbors or with a local hunger ministry.

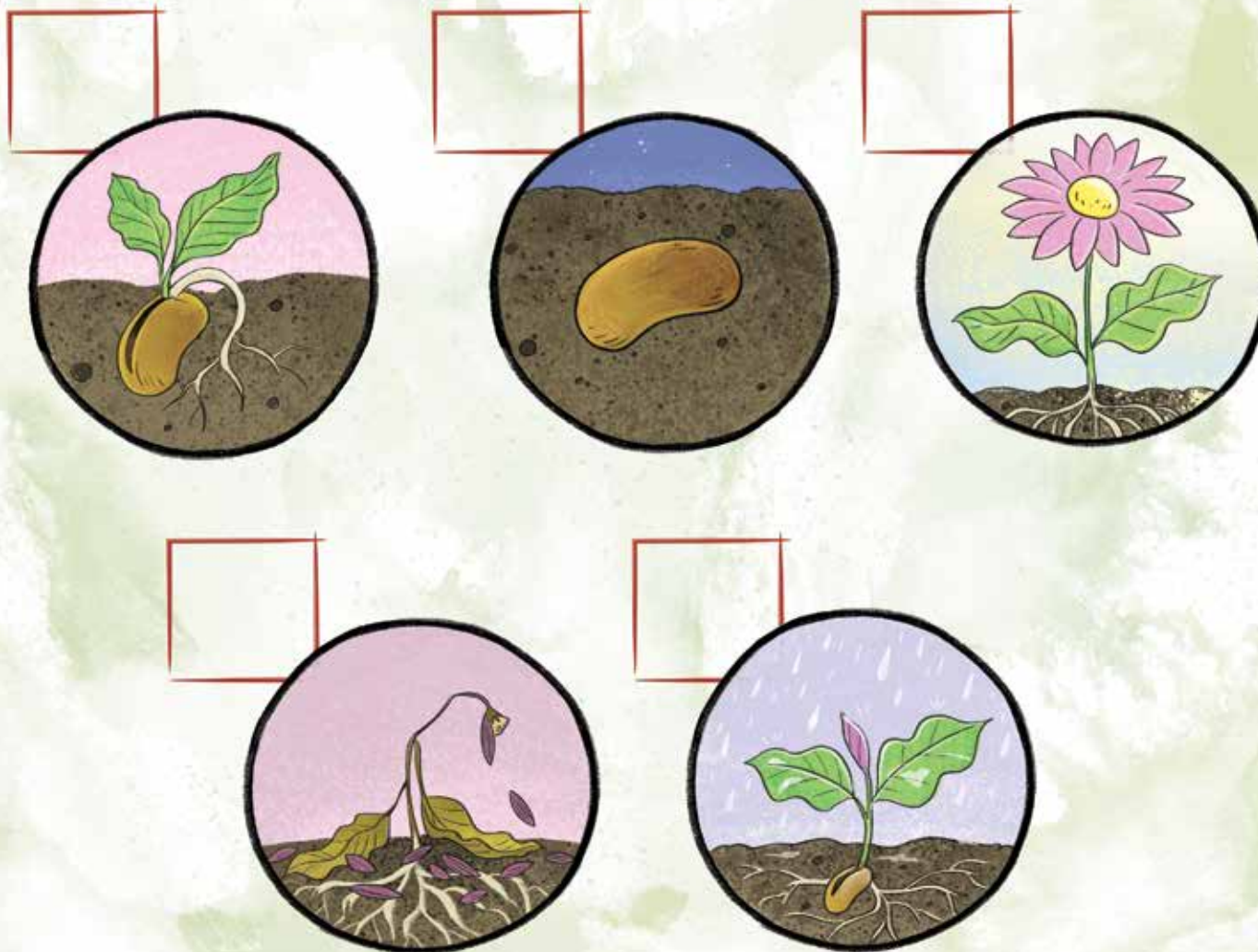
*Preschool Activity Pages*  
Unit 22, Session 1



# Plant Power

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TGP FAMILY APP

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Number each picture to show the order of a seed growing into a plant and then dying.



**KEY PASSAGE:** Mark 6:34

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Why did Jesus tell parables?  
Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

- Jesus taught a parable about a man who scattered seeds.
- Jesus told about four kinds of soil, but only one produced a crop
- Each type of soil represented a way people respond to the gospel.
- Not everyone who hears the gospel believes it.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- How can we know who will believe the gospel?
- What could you do if someone you tell about Jesus doesn't believe the gospel?

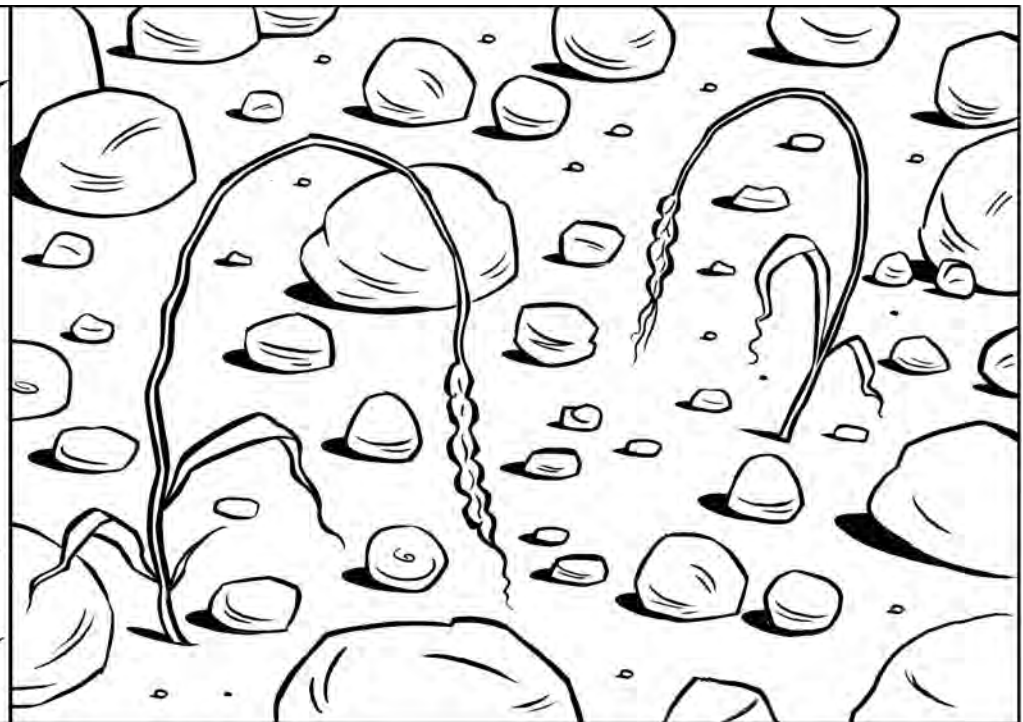
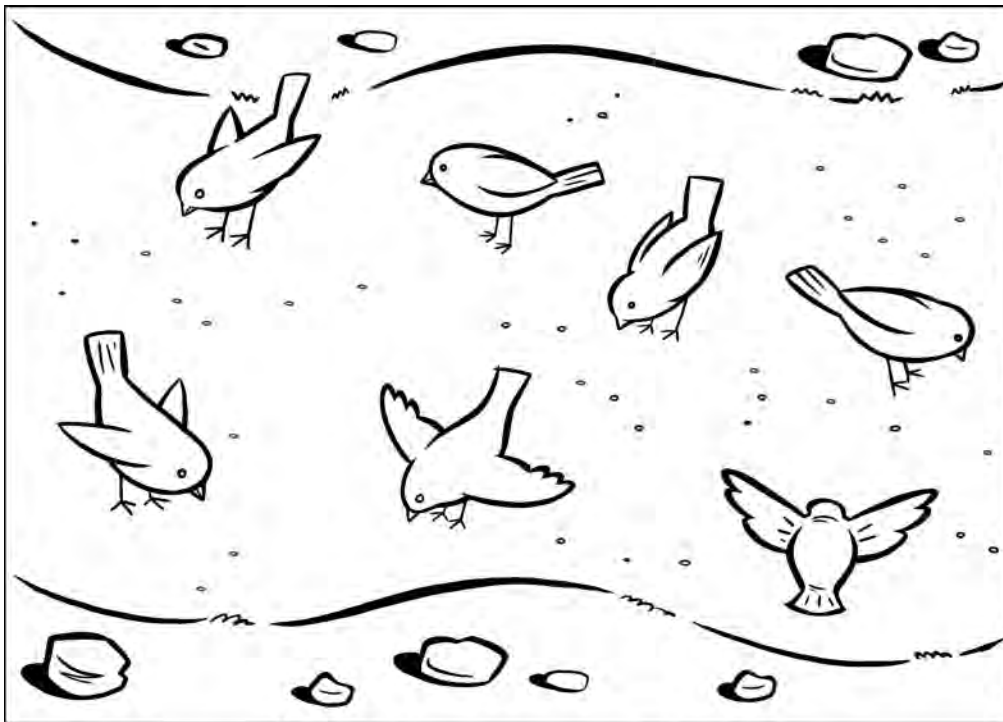
**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Plant a garden with your family. Check on the seeds daily to see how they are growing. Consider using different kinds of soil to see which grow the best plants.

*Younger Kids Activity Pages*  
Unit 22, Session 1







## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.