



3rd - 5th

February 28 - March 1, 2015

DATE

Matthew 13:1-23
Adventure Bible (pp. 1067-1068)

WHERE TO FIND IT

The Sower

LESSON TITLE

God calls us to share Jesus with our friends

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (20 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (25 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Today is all about sharing Jesus with our friends. Encourage kids to bring their friends and to be bold in sharing their faith.

**The Connect Time activity might seem complicated if you approach it step by step. Read the instructions to the game ahead of time and make sure you understand it.*

check-in/out

When leaving, encourage kids to share the way they want to grow to be like Jesus this week (it's written on a small piece of paper inside the Ziploc bag).

large group heads up

Jesus told a parable of a farmer sowing seeds to help us understand how important it is to grow to be like Jesus and share him with others (even if sometimes they don't listen). Read Matthew 13:1-23 ahead of time to prepare to teach it to kids.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

Telephone Pictionary

* *Break kids small groups*

- Give each kid a **stack of ¼ sheets of paper** and a **pen/marker** (*make sure they have as many pieces of paper as kids in their group.*)
 - Everyone writes a phrase on the top paper of the stack. This can be as ridiculous or as serious as the students want it to be. Some starting ideas could be their favorite Bible story, movie, TV show, etc.
 - **Pass the whole stack clockwise** (but keep it hidden from everyone else).
 - Kids will **receive someone else's phrase**.
 - They should **move that paper to the back of the stack**.
 - Then **draw a picture** of their interpretation of the phrase (*if they can't read their neighbor's writing, they can ask for it to be whispered to them verbally*).
 - **Pass the stack clockwise** again (with the drawing on top this time)
 - Everyone will **receive a drawing** from the same neighbor who gave them a phrase.
 - They should **move the drawing to the bottom of the stack and write a phrase** that they think interprets the drawing on the next blank piece of paper.
 - Repeat the writing-drawing stages until the kids receive their original stack.
 - Then, **take turns sharing your stacks**, seeing how well the original phrase stayed intact... or how funny it has become!
- **Debrief:**
 - Instead of silly messages, what are some important messages (such as good advice) that we could pass on to our friends?
- **Then ask kids about the best and worst parts of their weeks.**

***If you feel this game is too complicated for your group, play regular Pictionary on blank sheets of paper or regular telephone.*

If you have extra time, remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recall the parable of the sower, (2) recognize that the good soil refers to people who hear the message of Jesus' rescue, and become more like Jesus which includes showing others how to follow Jesus

Why? We have a message of good news and we want to share it with our friends.

Tip: Fill the spray bottle with water ahead of time.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What happened to the seeds in the parable of the sower?
2. What do the seeds represent?
3. Who does the farmer represent?
4. What important lesson (or message) can we learn from this story?
5. How can we be like the seeds in the good soil? (*Brainstorm ways to become more like Jesus, including ways to share Jesus with others.*)

CONNECT TO THE STORY

- Give each kid a **Ziploc bag and paper towel**.
- Have kids **spray paper towels with water**. Paper towels should be damp enough to provide moisture for the bean.
- Kids should fold the paper towel and place it in the bag.
- Have the kids **place a dry lima bean** on top of the damp paper towel so it's visible and seal the bag tightly, so there's no air in it.
- Give kids (1) **an instructions sticker** and to stick on the outside of the bag.
- Have kids come up with one way they want to grow to be more like Jesus and have roots (Here are some ideas: read the Bible, pray, invite a friend to Kids' Club, etc.!)
- **Draw/write** that thing on the **blank quarter sheet of paper**. Then slip that inside the bag as a reminder (or tape it to the outside depending on how wet your paper towel is).
- Grow these seeds as a reminder that by talking to God and listening to him, we can keep growing to be more like Jesus!

Extra time? Play additional rounds of Pictionary Telephone (or Pictionary or telephone), but this time the phrase should be a way to share to Jesus!

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special notes

The script may look shorter than normal, but that's because there's a lot of video support. Make sure you preview all the content so that you're prepared to set it up for kids!

presenter tips

You can preview the Sower video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6LwEW8jX9A>. The others will be available at [CrossroadsKidsClub.net/weekend](https://www.crossroadskidsclub.net/weekend).

script

**Click to play intro music.*

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's so good to see you here. That game you guys were just playing looked like so much fun! I want to hear how your messages ended up. Did anybody's message totally change? Let's hear about it (let a few kids respond). Those are hilarious!

You know, it's funny if those messages get changed. But there are some messages that should NOT get changed. What kind of messages are so important that you don't want to get them wrong? For example, recently somebody told me _____ (*give an example of a personal message you've received recently*). I wouldn't want to get that wrong! What other messages are important? (Let kids share.) Great examples!

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

You know, one message that we don't want to get mixed up is the message of Jesus and the good news that he has rescued us! But you know what? Jesus told us a story to help us understand that some people *won't* understand his message, or won't accept it. Let's take a look at the whole story.

We're going to watch a video of the time Jesus told this story to a crowd of people. It's called "The Parable of the Sower." Does anybody remember what a parable is? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it's a story that teaches a lesson. And does anybody know what a "sower" is? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it's a farmer who plants seed. Sowing is another word for planting.

This story is all about a farmer who planted seeds. The seeds are like the message of God's kingdom. When we hear what happens to the seeds, we can understand what happens when people hear the message of Jesus. As you watch, see if YOU can figure out the lesson of this parable. Ready?



script continued

Video: Parable of the Sower <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6LwEW8jX9A>

Pretty fun way to hear that story, huh? OK, I want everybody to think in your head for a moment. What lesson do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this story? (Give kids time to think.) Turn and tell one person the lesson you think we can learn (give kids time to share).

What did you guys think? (Have kids share a few lessons.) That's right: it's a reminder that we should grow roots by getting to know God better through things like the Bible and prayer. If our roots are really strong, we'll be like the seeds in the good soil. And then we'll be able to tell others about Jesus and share the message, just like farmers should plant seeds! Sometimes people won't listen to us...but sometimes they will and it'll be like seeds falling on good soil.

THE MESSAGE

You know, when Jesus talks about a harvest, he means that more people would become part of God's family, and they would tell others how to become part of God's family, and they would tell others...and on and on and on. God wants *everybody* to be part of his family!

Basically, this is the message that Jesus wants us to know. It's summed up really well in John 3:16 in the Bible:

SLIDE: John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

When we believe that God sent Jesus to rescue us, we become a part of God's family and a part of God's Kingdom. Then our job is to get to know Jesus better and act more and more like him, which includes telling others about him. And if we do that, we're like the seeds in good soil that grow and bring a bigger harvest. Growing means becoming more like Jesus and bringing a bigger harvest means sharing God's message with others.

RESPOND AND PRAY

We can be more like Jesus and tell others about him right now, and that's called being Jesus' disciples. We're going to watch a video about it. As you watch, ask God to show you the face or name of somebody who you could tell about his message!

Video: Context: Discipleship

Let's pray together and ask God to help us share his message—and to help our friends understand it and be like good soil. (*You can ask a kid to come pray or wrap up for the group.*)

WORSHIP

Now, let's stand and thank God that we know him and that we can share his message, like the farmer who planted his seeds.

Music Video: Better than the Best

Music Video: All That You Need



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per kid

Ten ¼ sheets of white paper
Marker/pen

small group supplies

Per kid

sandwich ziplock bags
1 dry lima bean
1 paper towel
1 sticker (with instructions; please print sticker template on Avery 5264 labels)
One 1/4 sheet of paper

Per group

Pens/Markers
Adventure Bible (pp. 1067-1068)
1 spray bottle filled with water
Some blank pieces of paper for groups who want to play Pictionary if they have extra time

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1067-1068)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Parable of the Sower (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6LwEW8jX9A>)
3. Slide: John 3:16 "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."
4. Video: Context: Discipleship (<https://vimeo.com/99064412>)
5. Music Video: Better than the Best (with dance moves)
6. Music Video: All That You Need

connect questions

Tell me about the sower.
Why should we share Jesus with our friends?

parent page

Today we learned about the Parable of the Sower, which teaches us the importance of listening to God's Word. Ask your child about why it's important to share the messages of the Word of God with their friends and family. You can read the Parable of the Sower at home, in Matthew 13:1-23.

We also started growing bean plants today so your child can see how the Word of God can take root in their lives. The seeds should be placed in a warm, sunny spot in your home (such as taped to a window). If the paper towel becomes dry, sprinkle it with water. The seeds should finish growing in about two weeks.