

Name .....

## Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Jesus tells simple stories called parables to help people understand an important message.



## Activity time



Crowds gathered to listen to Jesus telling stories. Where did he sit so that everyone could hear him? Join the dots to find out.

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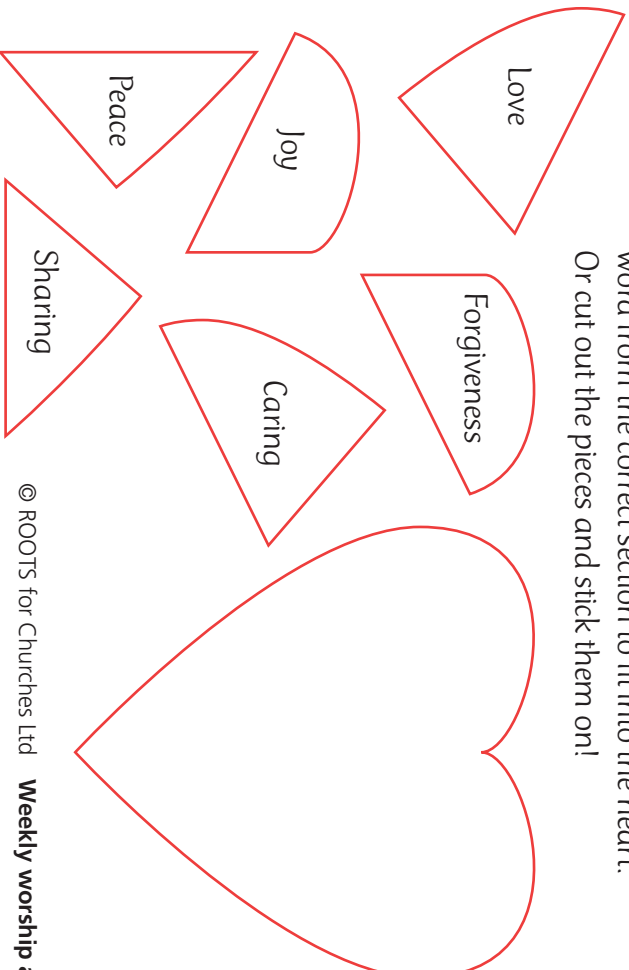
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12



## Puzzle

Jesus sows the seeds of God's love in our hearts. Can you 'plant' the words in this heart? Write the word from the correct section to fit into the heart. Or cut out the pieces and stick them on!



## ROOTS children's Sheet

12-18 July 2020



Fit the nine letters from 'sunflower' into the gaps below. Cross them off as you use them.



Jes \_ s told th \_ m a st \_ ry  
about a farme \_ who sowed  
\_ots of seeds. Some of them  
\_ell on bad ground, and died.  
But all the seed o \_ good  
ground gre \_ tall and \_ trong



## Family time

**Talk** In the story, what helped the seeds grow and what stopped them from growing? What helps us to grow as followers of Jesus? What might stop us from growing?

**Do** Take it in turns to tell a story. Someone starts the story with a sentence, e.g. 'One day, John went to help clean the church when....' Continue until the story reaches a natural conclusion.

**Pray** Make time to read some favourite Bible stories together (some of the parables ideally) and pray about the meaning together.

Once upon a time... 12-18 July 2020

**Bible time**  **Matthew 13.1-9,18-23**

Jesus tells simple stories, called parables, to help people understand an important message.

## Life today

Have you ever been told a story that helps to teach you something? Maybe you've heard of 'The Boy who Cried Wolf' or 'The Hare and the Tortoise'. Jesus used stories like these, called parables, to help people understand and remember the things he was saying.

[Read the story together then explore it using these questions.](#)

## Question time

- What things cause people to lose their enthusiasm and joy for God's word?
- Jesus kept telling the crowd to 'Listen!' What do you need to do to be a good listener?
- What makes stories such a powerful way for Jesus to teach people?

## Activity time

- **Casting seed**  
Set out four cups or bowls on a table and label them: path, rocky ground, thorns and good soil. Take a handful of rice or lentils and 'broadcast' it by scattering it across the table. How much of it went into the bowl representing good soil?
- **Listen!**  
Take it in turns to say a sentence twice, but changing one word the second time it is said. Everyone else has to listen, to see if they can work out which word was changed. Talk about what makes it easy or hard to listen.
- **Stories**  
Try to read a Bible story together each night this week. You could take it in turns to choose a favourite story and say what you like about it. Listen carefully to the story, and share with each other anything special that you noticed. Did you hear anything new? Did anything jump out at you?



So many people wanted to see Jesus and hear what he had to say, that he had to sit in a boat and teach the people standing on the shore. He told them many things through parables.

'Listen!' Jesus said. 'A farmer went out to sow his wheat seeds. As he scattered them, some of the seeds fell on the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell onto rocky ground. At first, they grew quickly, but when the sun came out they got all burnt up because they had no roots in the shallow soil. Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up around them and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and they grew into thirty, sixty, a hundred times more wheat. 'Listen!' Jesus said again. 'If you've got ears, listen!'

Jesus explained the parable of the sower to the crowd. 'What did I mean by the seed on the path being eaten up?' he said. 'Well, that's like when the good things that God has planted in our hearts get snatched away by the devil. And the seed on the rocky path? That's like when someone hears God's Word and loves it and is full of joy, but their enthusiasm disappears as soon as trouble comes their way. And the seed among thorns? Well, that's like when someone hears God's Word but worry and greed take over. But the seed planted in good soil – ah, the seed in the good soil is like the person who hears God's Word, loves it and lives it, so it produces thirty, sixty, a hundred times more goodness in their lives.'

**devil** a personification of evil, also called Satan or 'the evil one'.

## Prayer time

Give everyone the opportunity to share a story of something happy that has happened to them today or that they have seen in the news. After each one, say, 'Thank you, God, for the good things in this story.'

# Make a story catcher

**You will need:** a square of plain paper (about 20cm square) and pens or pencils.

- **Fold your square paper into quarters then unfold.** Fold each corner in towards the middle. Turn the paper over so that the folded edges are face down, and now fold each corner in towards the middle again.
- **Write numbers 1 to 8 on each of the folded triangles,** then lift the flaps and write the story in eight parts underneath each triangle shape.
- **Flip it over and decorate the folded squares with colours.** Place index fingers and thumbs into the squares on each side to fold the story catcher in with the coloured squares on top. (see below).
- **Play with a member of your family** and use your story catchers (using the structure below).
- **You could use the following eight sentences to make the story in your story catcher**



1. Jesus liked telling stories.
2. Lots of people came to listen to Jesus.
3. Sometimes the crowds were huge!
4. Once Jesus told a story about a sower.
5. The sower sowed seed on different types of ground.
6. Jesus hid messages in his stories.
7. The parable of the sower is about how we respond to God.
8. Parables help us to learn more about God.

## •How to play

1. Choose a colour. Spell out the colour as you move the story catcher
2. e.g. yellow = 6 moves.
3. Choose a number from one of the triangles and move the story catcher that many times.
4. Choose a number from another triangle and open up for that part of the story.
5. Repeat