

Parent Newsletter

Living faith
within our families

July 2020



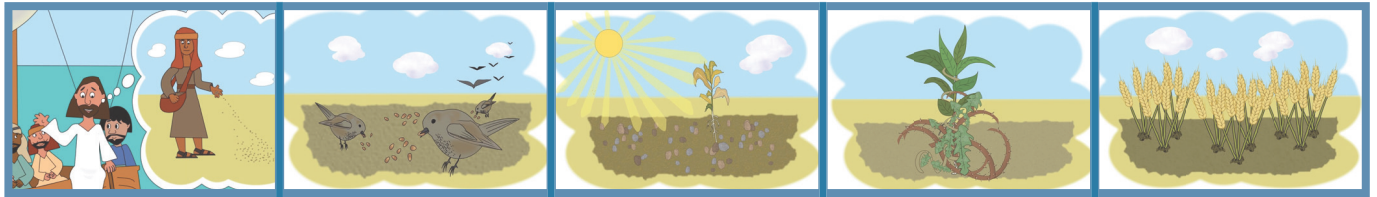
The Parable of the Sower

A version of Matthew 13: 1- 9, the Gospel for w/c 13th July and shared with children in assembly.

Jesus taught the crowd many things through stories. He said, "Imagine a

farmer going out to sow his seeds. While he was sowing, some seeds fell on the edge of the path and the birds came and ate them up. Some seeds fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't very much soil. Those seeds grew very fast, because the ground was not deep. But as soon as the sun came up, the plants

dried up because they did not have deep roots. Some other seeds fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and choked the good plants. Still other seeds fell on good soil where it grew, became strong and produced many more seeds to be used the next year! Let those with ears use them and listen!"



Seeing the Good

Jesus told this story a long time ago, so clearly, it's not about the coronavirus! But we asked children to imagine for a moment that it was, and the seeds are all the good things God has given them...

- The coronavirus might have felt like the birds coming in to steal their good things, keeping them away from school and their friends.
- At first maybe they started off enjoying lockdown and it felt fun to be doing schoolwork from home. Maybe they threw themselves into lots of projects and kept themselves very busy. But it probably got old quickly and their initial enjoyment and positivity faded. That's when they felt like the rocky ground where the good

things didn't have deep roots.

- Finally, the thorny weeds. As the effects of lockdown became more obvious: adults worrying about their work, school STILL being closed, end of year events that they'd been looking forward to being cancelled etc. Maybe it felt like all these bad things, these 'weeds' were affecting their ability to see good things.

We explained to children that Jesus is the farmer in this story, who plants good things from God in our lives and the word of God in our hearts. Jesus wants us to be like the good soil, where the seeds can grow strong and multiply. That means the seed – God's word in our hearts that helps us have faith – can grow!

Prayer

Take some time with your child to reflect on the year – the good things and the bad – and thank God for being with them through everything.

Jesus knows there will be difficult things in our lives. Things that feel like birds coming to steal our joy, rocky ground where things feel more difficult, weeds strangling our hard work and things we were looking forward to.

But no matter what other things are around that we are distracted by, **when we allow Jesus into our lives, our eyes become eyes of faith – and He helps us to see the good things and be thankful for them!**