

# **Bible Story 38: JESUS TELLS A PARABLE: “THE SOWER”**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-32; Mark 4:1-29

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 119:105

## **BIBLE STORY:**

Jesus taught His disciples by telling parables. What is a parable? It is a story that teaches a truth from God.

Jesus sat in a boat on a lake. He told a parable to His disciples and the crowd on shore.

*One day a farmer was sowing seeds.*

*Some seeds fell on a pathway. The birds ate the seeds.*

*Some seeds fell on rocky ground. These seeds sprouted. The seeds quickly dried up, because of the hot sun.*

*Other seeds fell on thorny ground. The thorns spread and did not give any space for the seeds to grow.*

*Other seeds fell on good ground. The seeds grew and multiplied.*

Later, the disciples asked Jesus what the story meant. Jesus explained the parable.

*The seeds are the Word of God in the lives of different people.*

*The seeds that fell on a pathway are like the person who hears the Word of God, but the Word is taken away from him.*

*The seeds that fell on rocky ground are like the person who hears the Word of God, and he thinks about it. When trouble or persecution comes to him for his belief, he does not let the Word of God grow within him.*

*The seeds that fell on thorny ground are like the person who hears the Word of God, but he worries and is led away with his desire for wealth. He does not let the Word of God grow within him.*

*The seeds that fell on good ground are like the person who hears the Word of God and understands the Word of God. He lets the Word of God grow within him. Then the Word of God grows greatly.*

## **PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS**

1. What did you learn from the story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

## **PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS**

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

## **PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

1. What is a parable?
2. Who taught His disciples by telling parables?
3. What happened to the seeds:
  - ...When they fell on the pathway?
  - ...When they fell on rocky ground?
  - ...When they fell on thorny ground?
  - ...When they fell on good ground?
4. What do the seeds represent in the parable?
5. What is the Word of God? What can happen to people when they hear the Word of God?
6. Why is it important for people to let the Word of God grow within them?
7. How can the Word of God grow in your life?