



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



## Family Activities: Sunday 12th July 2020

### Different 'Dirt'

*Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10.45am to go through some of the activities together!*

*We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.*

*Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at [carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @10.45am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.*

**Theme:** To understand that we can choose how we respond to Jesus and all that he offers us.

### Setting the Scene:

Jesus often told stories to teach people things. We call his stories Parables. One of his stories is called 'The Parable of the Sower' It's about a farmer who sowed seed in his fields. Have three trays or shallow boxes with different contents (e.g. carpet, sandpaper, pebbles). Keep them hidden so the children can't see the contents. Invite the children to take turns at standing in the trays blindfolded to guess what the "ground is made of". Today's story is about the effects of different types of ground on some seeds.

**Song:** Sing and dance along to 'Shine': <https://youtu.be/W2xc-w8Zcbo>



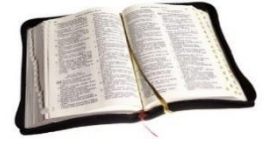
### Bible Passage:

A cartoon of the bible passage can be found here: <https://youtu.be/V9IOhGPrRvY>



*...or you may prefer to read it:*

Matthew 13:1-9 International Children's Bible (ICB)



## A Story About Planting Seed

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup>Large crowds gathered around him. So, Jesus got into a boat and sat, while the people stayed on the shore. <sup>3</sup>Then Jesus used stories to teach them many things. He said: "A farmer went out to plant his seed. <sup>4</sup>While he was planting, some seed fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. <sup>5</sup>Some seed fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't enough dirt. That seed grew very fast, because the ground was not deep. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, the plants dried up because they did not have deep roots. <sup>7</sup>Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and choked the good plants. <sup>8</sup>Some other seed fell on good ground where it grew and became grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain. Other plants made 60 times more grain, and some made 30 times more grain. <sup>9</sup>Let those with ears use them and listen!"

Matthew 13:18-23 International Children's Bible (ICB)

## Jesus Explains the Seed Story

<sup>18</sup>"So listen to the meaning of that story about the farmer. <sup>19</sup>What is the seed that fell by the road? That seed is like the person who hears the teaching about the kingdom but does not understand it. The Evil One comes and takes away the things that were planted in that person's heart. <sup>20</sup>And what is the seed that fell on rocky ground? That seed is like the person who hears the teaching and quickly accepts it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But he does not let the teaching go deep into his life. He keeps it only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching he accepted, then he quickly gives up. <sup>22</sup>And what is the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That seed is like the person who hears the teaching but let's worries about this life and love of money stop that teaching from



growing. So the teaching does not produce fruit<sup>[a]</sup> in that person's life. <sup>23</sup>But what is the seed that fell on the good ground? That seed is like the person who hears the teaching and understands it. That person grows and produces fruit, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more, and sometimes 30 times more."

**Questions to ask:**

- 1) Which part of the story did you like best and why?
- 2) What kinds of ground did the farmer plant the seeds on?
- 3) In the film, which ground was the best for growing and why?
- 4) Which soil does God want you to be like?
- 5) How can we be good soil?

THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER

OR THE PARABLE OF THE FOUR TYPES OF SOIL

**Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):**

Jesus explained to the people who had gathered to hear his story what the parable means.

The farmer is like Jesus and the seed is like the message of God. Jesus sows the seed of the good news in different places, and different people react differently to God's message.

When seeds fall on the path and are eaten by the birds it's like when people who hear the good news pay no attention. They carry on living their lives without Jesus.

The seeds that fall on the rocky ground grow quickly but then die because they can't take root. This teaches us that some people listen to the good news at first, but their interest has no real root. When these people come across problems, they give up on Jesus.

The seeds that fall amid the weeds are choked and the plants die. Some people accept God's message, but they don't fully commit to Jesus. They let other things – like money and worries – get in the way of their faith. Like the weeds choke the plants, so these people's faith is smothered.

But the seeds that fall on good ground grow into big, healthy plants. The good soil is like the hearts of people who love Jesus, who hear the good news and rejoice. God's word takes root in their lives, and they remain faithful to God. Their faith grows and grows.

This story teaches us that God blesses those who love and trust him. If we don't listen to God's message, or we give up on it when things are tough, we will lose our faith and feel sad and lonely. But if we listen to the good news and do our best to follow God's word, then we will be rewarded.



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### Prayer:

Lord thank you for the message of the Kingdom planted in us. Help us to pull up the weeds of worry that threaten to choke us and miss out on the best you have for us. Lord we want to be good soil, producing a bumper crop for you. Amen

### Game:

Pea Relay.

Divide the children into teams and give each team two plant pots; one empty and one with dried peas inside. Give every child a straw (thin enough so that the dried peas don't get sucked up into it!). The children must race to suck the pea onto the end of their straw and transfer it to the empty pot, taking turns within their team. Position the two pots close together if the children are little and at opposite ends of the room if they are bigger!



### Activity:

Plant Pots.

Provide the children with plastic plant pots and lots of stickers to decorate them with. Older children might enjoy the challenge of using squared stickers to cover the pots like a mosaic. Include a Bible verse on the pots such as "This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love" (Phil 1:9) you can write this on with a marker pen.

