



Jesus: His Kingdom

♥ Bible Love Lesson

Have you ever planted seeds in the garden with your mom or dad? You find good soil and then you water it (not too much!) just enough. You wait for the plant to grow in the sunshine that God gives. You are like a plant that God watches. He wants you to grow strong and healthy so He gives you all the right things. What a loving God He is!

Bible Story: Planting Seeds

from Mark 4



Key Points

- ❖ Jesus told a story about a farmer planting seeds in his fields.
- ❖ The seed was planted in four different places.
- ❖ Some of the seed did not grow because it went into hard, rocky ground or soil with weeds.
- ❖ But the plants that grew strong and healthy were planted in good soil.

Jesus liked to tell stories called parables to help the people remember His teaching.

This is a story about a farmer who is planting seeds in his fields. The seeds did not all end up in the places the farmer wanted them. The farmer wanted each seed to fall into good earth so they would grow and be strong plants. The seeds were all the same when they were taken out of the farmer's bag but different things happened after they left the farmer's hands as he spread them out onto the dirt.

Some of the seed fell on the path where the ground was hard and dry. The birds immediately saw their next meal and flew down and ate the seed.

Other seed fell on the soil that was not very deep and was very rocky. It began to grow but the **roots** could not go deep into the earth, and soon it **withered** up and died with the hot sun.

Some seed came down in between weeds and thorns. When these seeds started to grow to be plants, they were soon **smothered** by the bad plants that did not grow good things. This made the plant die.

Then there was the seed that fell on wonderful rich brown soil. These seeds started to grow and their roots went deep into the ground so the plants were strong and healthy. The rain fell and watered the plants. The plants reached up into the sky toward the sun when it came out. These plants were good for food and **produced** even more seed for the farmer to use and plant.

Try to discover on your own what this story means. Think about the four different places the seed fell and what happened to each.

Word and Phrase Meanings

roots: the part of the plant that grows in the earth or soil

smothered: to choke out

withered: dried up

produced: to make more of something

Questions: Thinking & Remembering

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| <p>1. Why did Jesus tell stories called parables?
to help the people remember His teaching</p> <p>2. What does a farmer do?
plant seed in his fields</p> <p>3. Did the seeds all get planted where they could grow?
No</p> <p>4. Did the farmer plan for all the seeds to be planted in good ground?
Yes</p> <p>5. In which different places did the seed fall?
a) path b) rocky c) in the weed's d) good soil</p> <p>6. What happened to the seed that fell on the path?
the birds ate it</p> | <p>7. What happened to the seed that fell in the rocky places?
it withered and died</p> <p>8. What happened to the seed that fell into the weeds?
it was smothered and died</p> <p>9. What happened to the seed that was planted in the good soil?
it grew and was strong and healthy</p> <p>10. What was the result?
the good plants made more seed and more plants grew</p> |
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Bible Words To Remember

from 1 John 3:18; James 1:22

Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.



Bible Song

Be a Doer

a a a g-a g f f f c c d e c c f
Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
c d e f g a c c a a g f
Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.
c g g g a g g f f e d c
These words are in the Bible, and I know they're true!

Guided Prayer Thought

*Dear God, Your love is so wonderful and no one cares about us like You do.
Help us to tell others the good news about Your love.
In Jesus Name, Amen.*

♥ Bible Love Lesson

Do you ever **'pretend'** you are listening? What if God just pretended to listen? Would you like your mom or dad to pretend to listen when you are telling them something? Would you be sad if your friend pretended to listen? If you want others to listen to you, be sure that you are careful to listen and show love. Remember how much you are loved!

Bible Story: How are People Like Seeds?

from Mark 4



Key Points

- ❖ The disciples wanted to understand the story about the seeds.
- ❖ The farmer is like God's Word that is spread to many people.
- ❖ The seed is the message of God's love.
- ❖ The ground is like the people who hear the message.

The disciples listened carefully to the story of the farmer planting his seeds. They were trying to understand the story. They asked Jesus, "What does the story mean? We want to know what we should learn from the seeds."

After Jesus waited for a while for them to think, He explained the story to them.

He said that the farmer is like the person who tells many people what God's Word says. They do not **select** only a few people to tell. The seed is the message of God's love. The ground is like the people who hear the message.

Some hear the message but their hearts and minds won't accept what they hear. They forget the message very quickly—just like the hard ground on the path where the birds ate the seed.

Others are just like the seed that fell in the rocky places. They are excited at first when they hear the message, but when they have any problems they give up and turn away from God's Word.

The seed that is planted in the middle of the weeds and gets choked and smothered, is like people who want to do what God says, and believe His Word. But they don't keep their eyes on Jesus and think only of themselves. Then they forget all about God.

Finally—the good ground! These seeds are like people who listen with their hearts and minds. They obey God's Word, and even when things are **difficult**, they remember that God loves them and will help them. They grow stronger and stronger. They tell others about God's love and soon there are many other people who believe!

Word and Phrase Meanings

pretend:	to act like you are doing something but not really doing it
select:	to pick out certain things
difficult:	not easy

Questions:

Thinking & Remembering

1. How do we know that the disciples did not understand the story?
they asked Jesus to tell them what it meant
2. Did the disciples know that they should learn a lesson from the story?
Yes
3. Who is the farmer like?
the person who tells many people what God's Word says
4. What is the seed like?
the message of God's love
5. What is the ground like?
the people who hear the message
6. Into how many places did the seed fall?
four
7. What kind of people are the 'path' people?
those who hear and won't accept
8. What kind of people are the 'rocky' people?
those who hear but give up when they have problems
9. What kind of people are the 'weed' people?
they want to believe, but they think more about themselves than they think about and love God
10. What kind of people are the 'good ground' people?
they listen and obey God and are strong

Being What God Wants Me to Be

Don't Give Up
Thinking



Understanding the parables Jesus told is like a puzzle at first. But Jesus said that if people really listen with their ears, and then think about it, they will understand with their hearts. They have to want to know! Some people just want everything to be easy. They want someone to explain things quickly without trying to figure it out and think for themselves. Jesus wants people to use the wonderful minds that God gave to discover God's message.

Something to Think About

What can understanding a parable be like at first?

What does Jesus want you to do?

Do you ever give up because something is too hard?

Guided Prayer Thought

*Dear God, Help us to be like the seeds that are planted in the good soil and grow strong.
In Jesus Name, Amen.*

♥ Bible Love Lesson

Do you think a small seed is just as important as a large seed? Do you think a child is just as important as a grown person? God thinks so! Everything and everyone on earth has an important part in the plan of God.

Bible Story: A Very Small Seed

from Matthew 13; Matthew 17



Key Points

- ❖ Jesus told another story about a tiny seed to show how God’s kingdom grows.
- ❖ Even though the mustard seed is tiny it grows to be a large tree
- ❖ Jesus wants us to understand that we can start with small things that will be big with His power.
- ❖ Faith that is as small as a mustard seed can even move mountains!

Jesus told His followers another story about a **certain** kind of seed. It is called a mustard seed. It is the tiniest seed there is, but it is one big surprise when it is planted and grows.

There was a farmer who took this tiny seed into his field. He carefully made a special hole in the ground and put the seed inside. He used a gentle spray of water to make the soil just right for the seed to grow. He knew that God’s sun would help the plant grow. Then he waited for the wonderful thing to happen.

Soon there were leaves coming up out of the earth. They were not as tiny as the seed. They were beautiful leaves. The plant had not finished growing yet, though. Next, the branches grew and became stronger and taller. It was still growing bigger and bigger! When it was fully grown, it became a very strong tree. The birds saw the tree and came to make a nest there for their baby birds. Other birds lived under the tree and it **shaded** them from the hot sun.

Jesus said that the mustard seed is like His words of love. Every time someone believes His word, it will grow strong and will help others to know God’s love, too. This builds God’s great kingdom.

Another time, Jesus told His disciples that if they had **faith** as small as a mustard seed, they could move mountains from one place to another and that nothing would be **impossible** for them to do with God’s power.

Word and Phrase Meanings

certain:	a special one
shaded:	made a cover
faith:	belief and confidence in God
impossible:	something that cannot happen

Questions:

Thinking & Remembering

1. What is the name of the tiniest seed?
the mustard seed
2. Did the farmer want to plant this seed in a special place?
Yes
3. What did he do after the seed was in the ground?
he watered it
4. Were the leaves that grew from the tiny seed small?
No. They were beautiful leaves.
5. What else grew from the tiny seed?
strong branches
6. What happened when it was grown?
it was a tree
7. Who came to the tree to build a nest and use the shade on the ground?
birds
8. How did Jesus explain this parable?
the mustard seed is like His words of love
9. What did Jesus say about faith and the mustard seed?
that a small faith can grow to do great things
10. Is anything impossible to do with God's power?
No. With God all things are possible.

Praise
Hymn

Resource: My First Hymnal p. 68

Jesus Is All the World To Me

Jesus is all the world to me:
 My Life, my Joy, my All.
 He is my strength from day to day;
 Without Him I would fall.
 When I am sad, to Him I go;
 No other one can cheer me so.
 When I am sad,
 He makes me glad.
 He's my Friend.

Something to Think About

Who is "all the world" to you?

What else is Jesus to you?

What would happen if you did not have Jesus as your friend?

Guided Prayer Thought

Dear God, We want to share Your love with everyone. Help us to remember how important little acts of kindness are in showing Your love.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

♥ Bible Love Lesson

Do you remember when you were sick? Your head hurt or your tummy was upset. You felt just awful! You can ask Jesus to help you feel better. God hears all of your words to Him. You are precious to God!

Bible Story: A Little Girl Lives Again!

from Mark 5



Key Points

- ❖ A little girl in the Bible was so sick and no one knew how to make her well again.
- ❖ When the father remembered how Jesus healed the sick, he ran to find Jesus.
- ❖ As Jesus and the father were walking to the house, the little girl died.
- ❖ Jesus said that the father should not be afraid. He made the girl alive again!

A little girl who was very loved was sick and could not get out of bed and play or walk. Her parents were so **worried!** The doctors did not know what to do for her.

Then her father remembered about Jesus! He remembered how Jesus could make sick people **well**. The father ran to find Jesus. Then he saw Jesus—right in the middle of a large crowd. The father hurried and squeezed through all the people and at last—he came to Jesus! He fell down at Jesus’ feet and said, “Oh, Jesus, my little girl is at home and is so sick she will die if You don’t come to make her well!”

Jesus said, “I will come to your house.”

The father tried to move the people away so they could get to his home. But they could not hurry! There were too many people. Then, before they could get there, a servant met them and said to the father, “It is too late. Your little girl has died. Don’t ask Jesus to come now.”

The father was so sad, but Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid—**trust** me and I will help you.”

They went to where the little girl lay in her bed. She was not breathing. Her heart had stopped beating. Jesus said, “Little girl, get up.” The little girl got up from her bed. She was well! The father and mother loved Jesus. They knew that only Jesus could have made their little girl alive again because He is the Son of God.

Word and Phrase Meanings

worried:	upset and afraid
trust:	to believe in
well:	healthy
physician:	a doctor

Questions: Thinking & Remembering

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| <p>1. Why couldn't the little girl in the story get out of her bed?
<i>she was very sick</i></p> <p>2. Did the doctors know how to help her?
<i>No. They didn't know what was wrong.</i></p> <p>3. Did the father believe that Jesus could help his little girl?
<i>Yes</i></p> <p>4. What did the father say to Jesus?
<i>"My little girl will die if You don't come to make her well!"</i></p> <p>5. Did Jesus agree to go to the house where the girl was?
<i>Yes</i></p> | <p>6. What happened before Jesus could get to their house?
<i>the little girl died</i></p> <p>7. What did Jesus tell the father?
<i>"Don't be afraid—trust Me."</i></p> <p>8. When Jesus saw the little girl on her bed what did He say?
<i>"Little girl, get up."</i></p> <p>9. What did the little girl do?
<i>she got up from her bed</i></p> <p>10. Why could Jesus make the little girl alive again?
<i>He is the Son of God</i></p> |
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Being What God Wants Me to Be

Not Afraid



Jesus is called the "Great **Physician**," and He is the best doctor there can ever be. That's because He is God. He has power over sickness and death. But Jesus loves doctors and nurses who want to help people get better. You can ask Jesus to be with them so that they will know just what to do. You can do your part, too when someone else is sick by showing that you care. Remember that Jesus loves you and you can tell someone who is sick that you will pray for them because Jesus loves them!

Something to Think About

Why is Jesus called the "Great Physician?"

Who does Jesus help so that we can get better sometimes?

What can you do when someone you know is sick?

Guided Prayer Thought

Dear God, Thank You for taking care of us when we're sick.

Help us always to trust You.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

♥ Bible Love Lesson

Would you know who Jesus was if He came to your house? Do you think He would be dressed in special gold robes with a name tag that said, "I Am God's Son?" Jesus wants us to love all people everywhere. He said that when we do that, we are really loving Him. Don't wait and look for someone special or great before you give away the love Jesus gives to you. He will always have more love to give!

Bible Story: No Ordinary Man

from Mark 6 and Luke 4



Key Points

- ❖ In the town of Nazareth where Jesus grew up, people wondered how He could be God's Son.
- ❖ The people thought He looked and talked just like they did.
- ❖ Jesus had done many miracles in many places.
- ❖ The people that Jesus had helped believed that He was from God.

When Jesus went to the **synagogue** in the city of Nazareth where He was born, the people looked at Him carefully. Is this really Jesus who was a little boy in our town? Is this really Joseph's son? Wasn't He the one who helped in the carpenter shop? We know Him as just a young man who grew up in an **ordinary** family and had ordinary friends. Yes, He had been **obedient** to His parents and kind to others. He had been a very good student at school. Still, He looked just like any of the other people who lived and worked in Nazareth. Could He really have special power from God?

But everyone was sending reports and talking about this man Jesus who was doing miracles and healing sick people—people who had been crippled were walking—people who had been blind could see clearly. There were people who were **deaf**, but they could hear now.

All of the people who were healed from sickness and disease knew that Jesus had God's power. No one else could do the things He did. They believed that Jesus was the One that God had sent to earth. Jesus showed them by His love and kindness that God loved them and had not forgotten His people. Others did not believe. They were like the ones in the story that Jesus had told about the seeds. They heard with their ears, but not with their hearts. They **rejected** Jesus.

Word and Phrase Meanings

synagogue:	like a church where people went to hear God's words
ordinary:	just the same as most everyone else—not very special
obedient:	doing what is asked
deaf:	not able to hear
rejected:	refused to believe

Questions: Thinking & Remembering

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| <p>1. What did the people in Nazareth do when Jesus went back there?
looked at Him carefully</p> <p>2. Did they think that they could know the One who was doing all those special things they had heard about?
No</p> <p>3. Did they expect Jesus to be ordinary?
Yes</p> <p>4. What were some of the good things they remembered about Jesus growing up?
a) He was obedient to His parents.
b) He was a good student.</p> <p>5. Did they wonder how He could have special power from God?
Yes</p> | <p>6. What were some of the reports they had heard?
that Jesus did miracles</p> <p>7. Who were some of the people He helped?
He healed sick people, made crippled people walk, made blind people see, and deaf people hear.</p> <p>8. Did the people He helped know that Jesus had God's power?
Yes. No one else could do the things He did.</p> <p>9. What did they believe about Jesus?
He was God's Son</p> <p>10. Did everyone believe that He was God's Son?
No. Some rejected Jesus.</p> |
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Bible Words To Remember

1 John 3:18; James 1:22

Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.



Prayer Song

Resource: My First Hymnal p. 22

O, How I Love Jesus

Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because He first loved me.

Guided Prayer Thought

Dear God, Help us to see You when we look at people around us, and love like You love. In Jesus Name, Amen.