

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 July 2023 - Year A

“A sower went out to sow.”

Something to Think About

Close your eyes and imagine you are walking through a garden or park. What sorts of plants do you see? Think about how long these plants would have taken to grow from a tiny seed.

The Story

When Jesus told stories, he used images that the people would understand. Today he uses the planting of seeds. The seeds represent Jesus' message, and the soil represents how different people listen and respond to Jesus' message.

Jesus wanted the people to know how important it is to understand Jesus' words and follow him.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

13:1-9

Jesus went out beside Lake Galilee, where he sat down to teach.

Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat, while the people stood on the shore. Then he taught them many things by using stories.

He said: "A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field.

While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil was not very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots.

Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants.

But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants produced a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as was scattered.

If you have ears, pay attention!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video:

[The Parable of the Farmer and the Seeds](#)



Group Discussion

Some seed fell on the road and was eaten by the birds. These are people whose hearts are closed to hearing anything about God. They just do not understand Jesus' message.

Some seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was not deep so the seed soon died, scorched by the sun and without sufficient water to nurture its growth. Maybe some people 'hear' the message for a while but then decide that being a disciple is just too hard. They give up.

Some seeds fell among bushes and were choked by thorns and weeds. There are people for whom other things in life distract them from the message. Maybe they are more interested in worldly things and possessions. These can draw us away from following Jesus. Talk with the children about how they feel about coming to Mass each Sunday. Maybe there are other things they would prefer to do. Reassure the children that Jesus loves them and wants them to learn more about him.

Then there was the seed that fell on good soil and grew and grew and grew. This refers to the people who hear the word of God and follow it. They tell others about God's love and live as Jesus taught. Invite the children to think about how they follow God's word – by being honest and caring, by praying, by learning about Jesus, by thinking of others and helping them.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will pay attention to the needs of others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who hear God's word but refuse to follow it. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for strength to follow Jesus, even when it seems difficult. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for farmers who grow food for us to eat. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for those who care for trees, plants and all of creation. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help me to grow in faith and love,
like a seed planted in good soil.
Bless all those who try hard
to follow you.
Amen.

Group Activity

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed Craft

You will need: a template for each child, scissors, glue, coloured pencils or markers

There are two ways to complete this activity:

- 1) Cut out the coloured pictures and glue them above the correct text.
- 2) Add colour to the black and white pictures. Cut and paste the matching scripture quote in the shape provided.



Parable of the Sower



"some seeds fell by the way side," ...



"some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:" ...



"And some fell among thorns;" ...



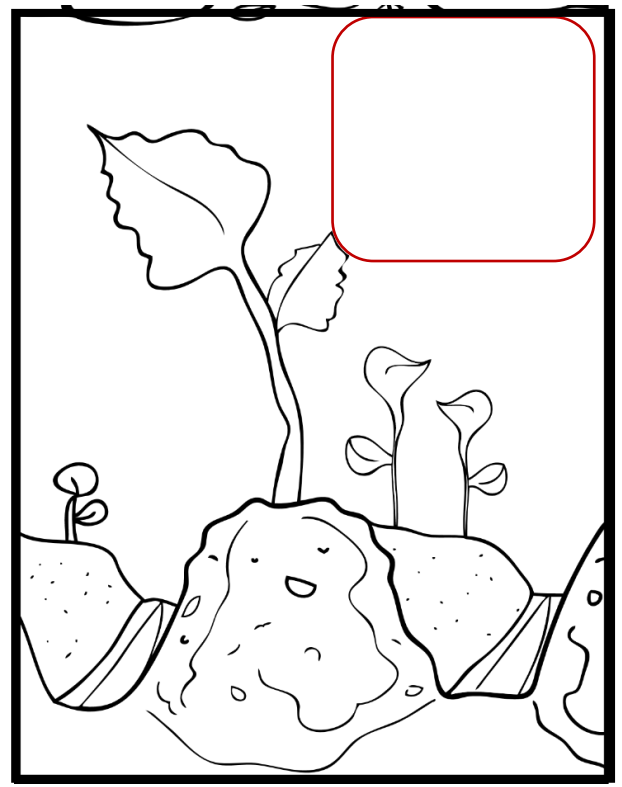
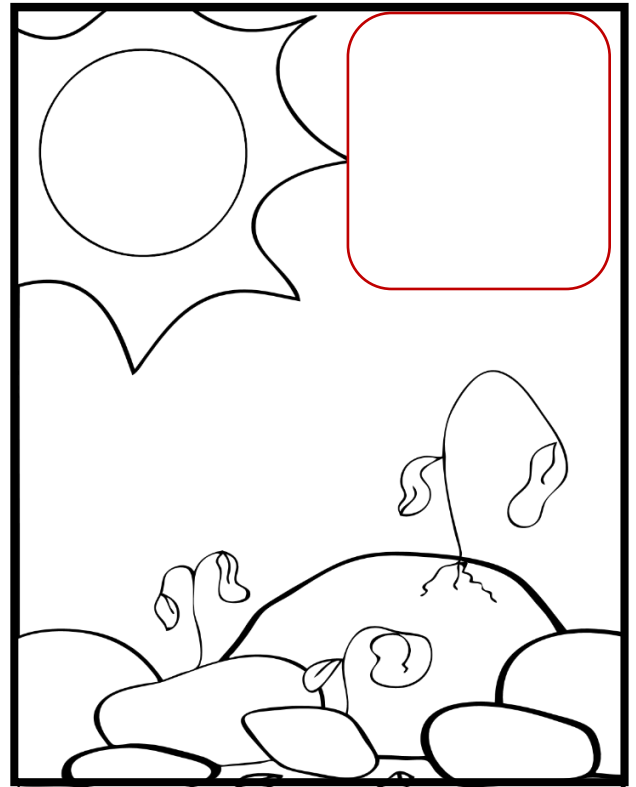
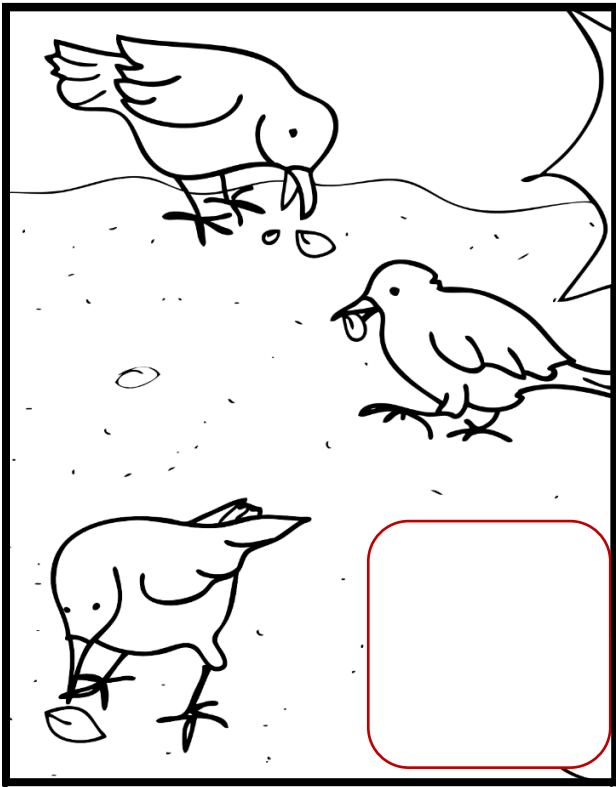
"but other fell into good ground," ...

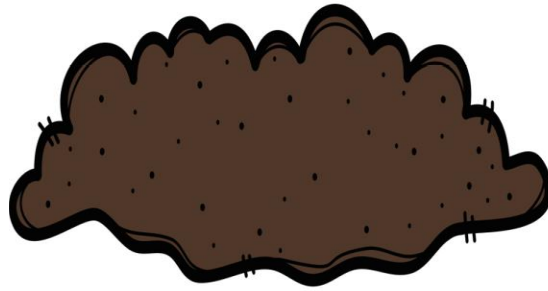
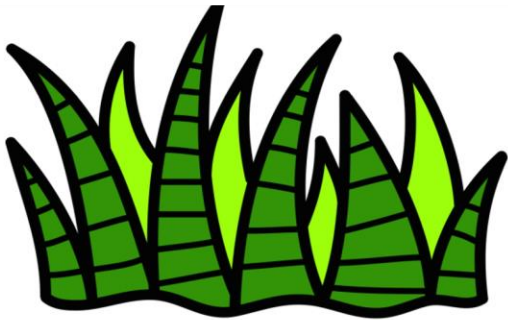
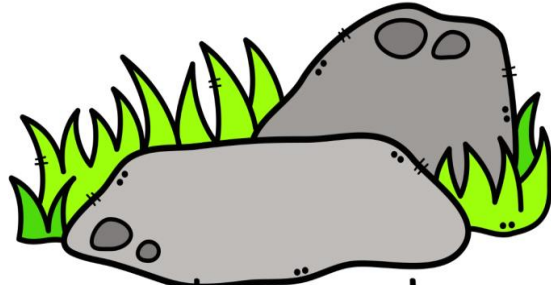
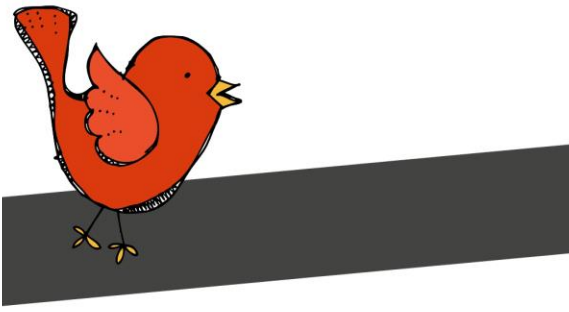
"Some seeds fell along the road."

*"Some seeds fell on thin rocky ground
and quickly started growing
because the soil was not very deep."*

*"Some other seeds fell where thorn
bushes grew up."*

"A few seeds did fall on good ground."





Some fell
along the road
and was eaten
by birds.

When the sun came
up the plants
were scorched
and dried up
because they did
not have enough roots

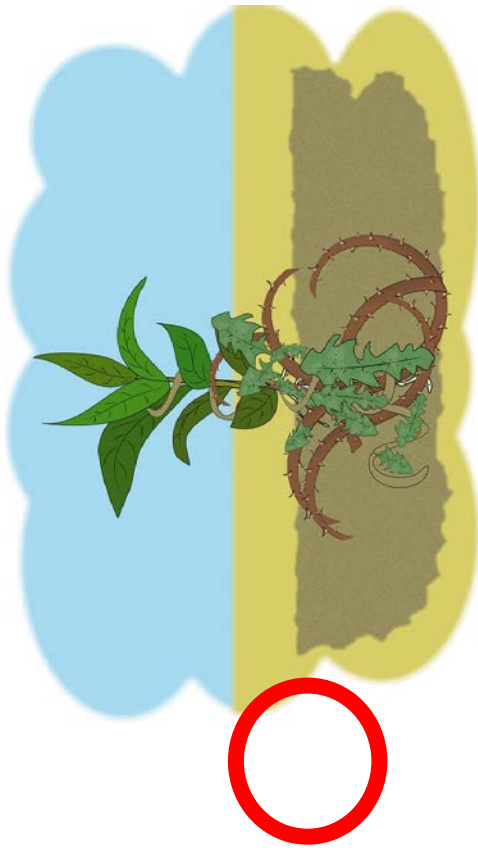
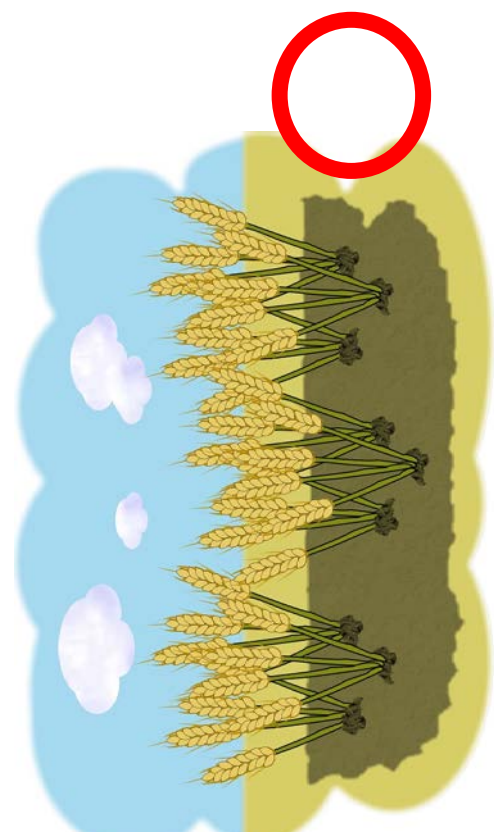
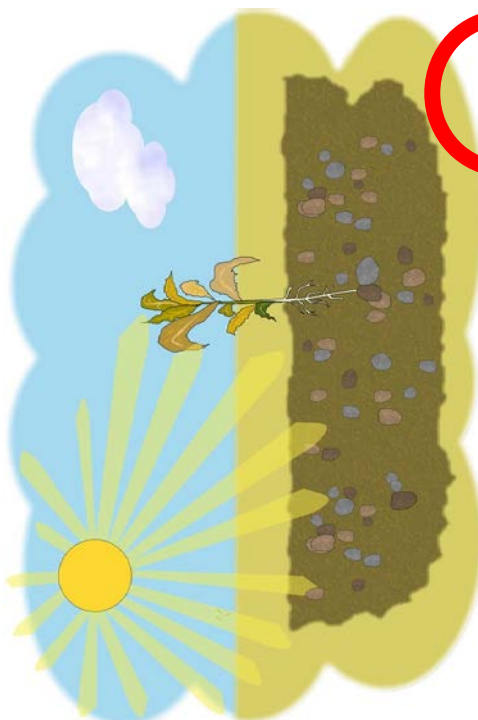
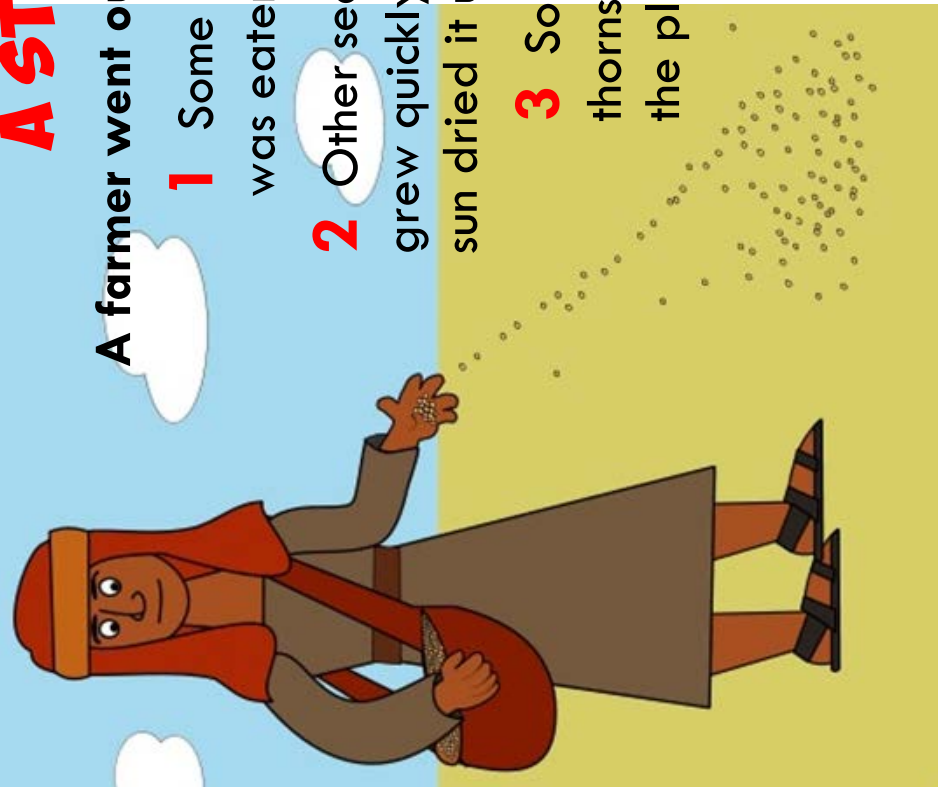
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Thorn bushes grew
up and choked
the plants.

A STORY JESUS TOLD

A farmer went out to scatter seed in his field.

- 1 Some of it fell on the road and was eaten by the birds.
- 2 Other seed fell on rocky ground – it grew quickly but, without deep soil, the sun dried it up.
- 3 Some seed fell beside thorns which grew and choked the plants.
- 4 And some fell on good ground and gave a rich harvest.



ORDINARY TIME 15 – YEAR A

Match the story with the pictures. Write the number in the circles.