

BIBLE LESSONS

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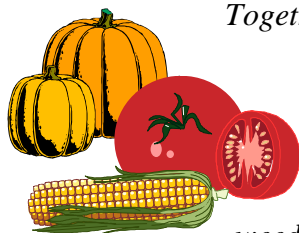
LESSON 9: WE'RE SOIL FOR THE SEED

AIM: To show children that the Bible is God's Word to them—just like a big love letter written to them from God. It shows what God is like, what God has done, gives us rules for living, tells us about the past and the future, etc. It is important that the children understand that it is not enough to know God's Word, but also to obey what it says.



OPENING IDEA: Ask the children if they have ever planted anything. Discuss what needs to be done to get a good crop of vegies or flowers. Tell the story about *Peter and the Garden of Weeds* ...

Peter Miller was more excited than he could ever remember being in his life. Today was moving day. The Millers were moving to a new home out in the country. Peter had never seen the new home, but his father had told him all about it. Peter didn't know how it happened, but after he got in the car he went to sleep. He slept until the car was turning into the driveway of the new house. As soon as the car stopped Peter jumped out and ran around the house, looking at everything. Together with Tim, his brother, they went exploring and at the back of the barn, all they could see was high grass and weeds, even higher than the top of their heads.



As Tim began to search through the weeds, he found a small red tomato. "I think this must have been a garden which someone forgot to take care of. The weeds have grown so tall that it is hard to find the plants," Tim said. "Let's look for some more." As they searched they found more tiny tomatoes as well as some corn and pumpkin, but all the garden plants were very small, because the weeds had grown so big that the good plants had not been able to grow properly.

Tim and Peter worked hard pulling up weeds, and when they were finished, there was a whole row of tomato plants that could be seen where the weeds had been. Their father was glad because now the weeds were out of the way, the tomato plants had a chance to grow up healthy and strong.

This story can be related to the way God is planting good seeds in our lives as we read the Bible and come to kids club, but we must make sure that the 'weeds' (selfishness, unkindness, greed, disobedience, rebellion, dishonesty, etc.) do not crowd out God's good plants.

MEMORY VERSE: "Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105)

- Each word of the Memory Verse may be written on a piece of card and hung around a child's neck. They must link arms as they work out the correct order of the words in the verse.
- May be written on a open book shape to take home.
- Have a competition for children to learn some or all of the books of the Bible.



ACTIVITY: **Game: Hot Potato**

You will need: one potato, a box and Bible questions written on strips of paper.

How to play: The children form a circle. One child is 'It'. 'It' says, 'Pass the potato'. Players must pass it to their left. 'It' calls out 'Hot Potato!' The child caught with the potato when "it" calls out "Hot Potato" then becomes 'It' after answering a question from the mystery box.

STORY: The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

You may need to explain that a parable is a brief story told by Jesus about everyday things so that people could understand the truth about God and His heavenly Kingdom.

PRESENTATION: Prepare four containers as follows:

1. Soil dry and packed very tight
2. Little soil and lots of stones
3. Soil with many weeds
4. Good rich, moist loosely packed soil.

Ask the children to imagine that they are on a farm for a holiday, and the farmer's tractor has broken down, so he must sow his seed by hand. The farmer has asked the children to help him.

Describe his land, or draw it. It has some rocky parts, some areas with lots of weeds, a few paths that people use to take a short cut through his field, and some beautiful rich soil.

As they go into the field, they have to throw the seed onto the ground but some falls on the hard path. (*Show the first container and sprinkle some seeds on top of the soil.*) It is not long before the birds fly down and gobble up the seeds that are laying on top of the hard soil.

Some seeds fall among the rocks (*show the second container and sprinkle seeds*), but there is not enough soil for their roots to grow deep and strong, so the plants soon dry up and die in the hot sun.

Some other seeds fall in with the thorny weeds (*sprinkle seeds into the third container*), but the weeds are so big and strong there is no room for the tiny seeds (remind the children of Peter and the Garden of Weeds story).

Best of all some seeds fell into the good soil (*sprinkle seeds into fourth container*), and grew to be beautiful long stalks of grain. (It would be good to water the seeds in this pot and bring it back the following week or weeks to show the growth of the seeds to reinforce this lesson.)

Spend some time in explaining the parable and its application to the lives of the children.

The seed is God's Word, the Bible. The hard soil represents people who hear, but are very hard and allow Satan to take the words away. The stony soil represents people who hear, but give up on God when things get tough. The thorny soil represents people who worry so much that they forget about God and allow other things to crowd Him out. The good soil represents people who hear God's Word and do what it says. A good harvest of goodness, kindness, love, happiness, etc. comes from their lives.



GET INTO
GOD'S WORD

Matthew 13:1-9,
18-23, Mark 4:1-
20, Luke 8:4-15

PARABLE of the SOWER



Wherever Jesus went, large crowds followed Him. One day, Jesus was teaching by the Sea of Galilee, and there were so many people crowding round Him that He got into a boat on the edge of the lake so that everyone could hear Him tell the parable of the sower and the seed.

There was a farmer sowing seed for next year's harvest. As he walked along, scattering handfuls of corn to the right and left, some of the seed fell on the dry, hard, beaten pathway. It was not long before the birds would swoop down and gobble up the seed lying on top of the hard soil.

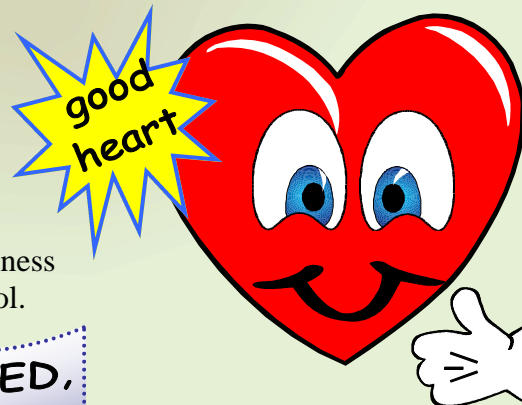
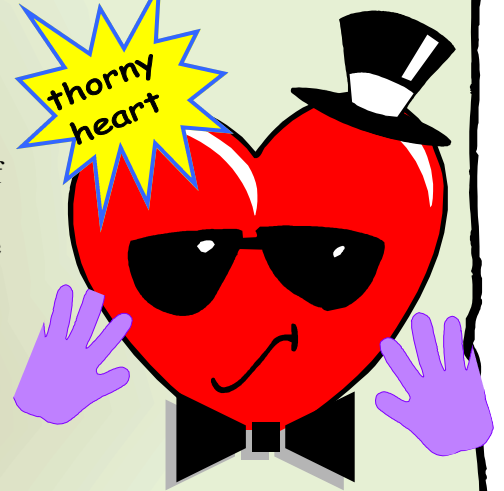
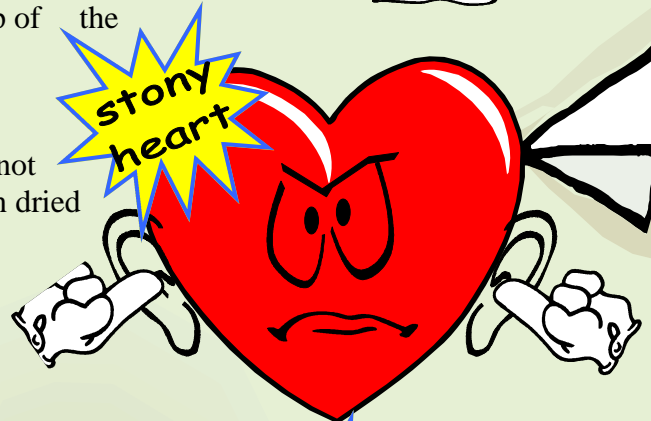
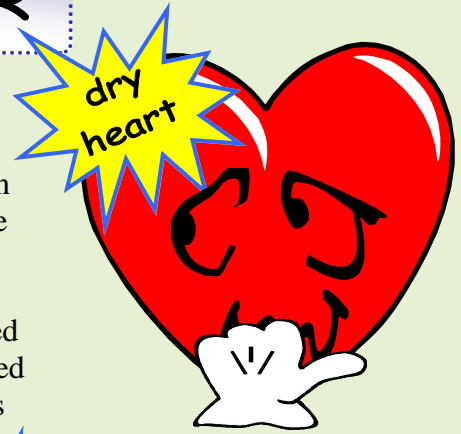
Other seeds fell into the soil that was full of rocks and stones. The soil was very shallow and the seeds could not grow strong roots deep down into the soil, so they soon dried up and died in the hot sun.

Some other seeds fell amongst the thorny weeds which grew taller and faster than the tiny seeds, and eventually choked them.

But best of all, some seeds fell into good, fertile soil. These seeds ripened and produced a rich harvest. From one little seed came a great supply of golden grain.

Jesus taught that these four types of soil are like four different types of heart attitude that we may have when we hear the Word of God.....

Dry soil	~~~	people who hear God's Word, but whose hearts are hard and allow Satan to take away the truth.
Stony soil	~~~	people who hear God's Word, but give up on God when things get tough.
Thorny soil	~~~	people who let the things of the world choke out the Word of God in their lives.
Good soil	~~~	people who hear God's Word, and do what it says. Their lives produce a rich crop of goodness, kindness, love, happiness, peace, long suffering, faithfulness and self-control.



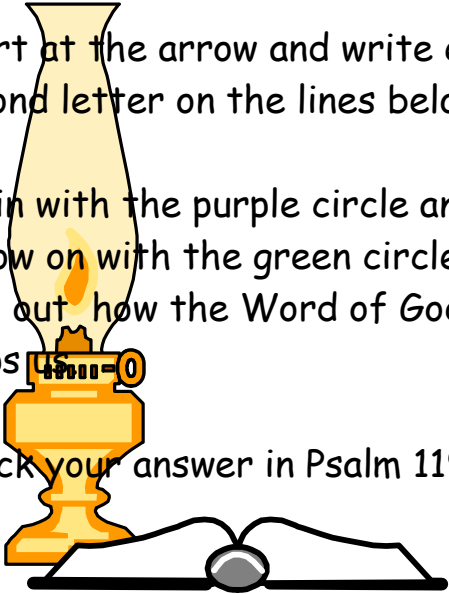
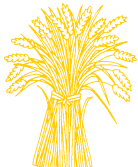
**GOD'S WORD is the SEED,
YOU are the SOIL**

YTOKUSRAWJOLRYDEIVSNAQLHAEMRPPSTHOMWGOUPPTOS
 ARNKDPAVLNIBGSHYTJFLOXKRMZMDYBPNMAETVH
 SEDMBE

Start at the arrow and write every second letter on the lines below.

Begin with the purple circle and follow on with the green circle to find out how the Word of God helps us.

Check your answer in Psalm 119:105

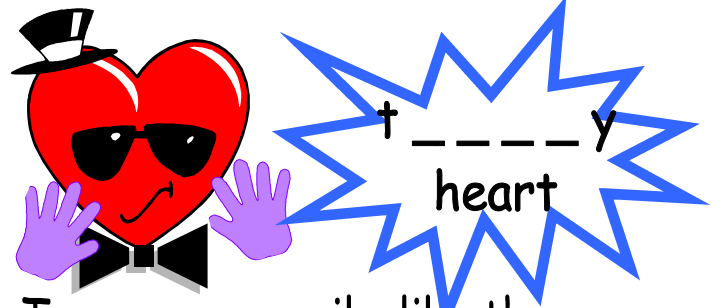
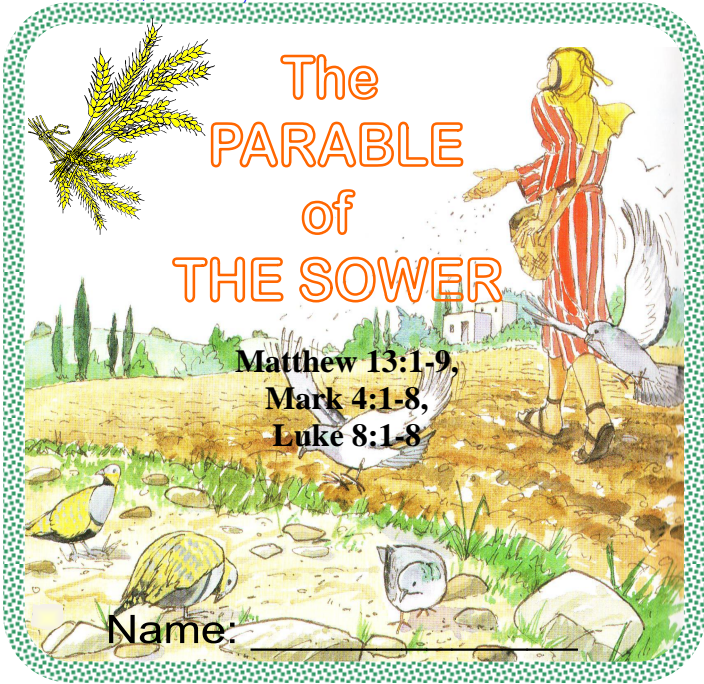



MEMORY VERSE

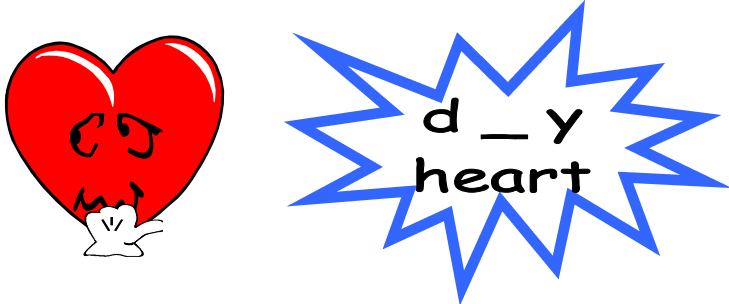
Y _____

_____, a _____

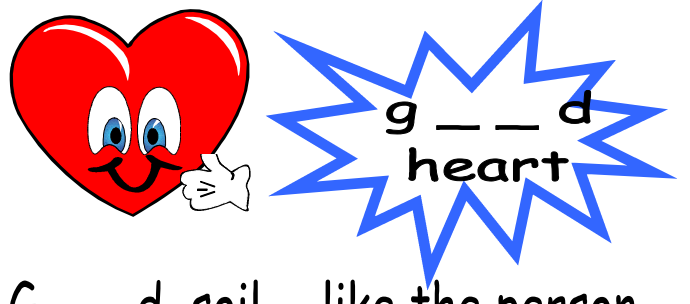
_____.



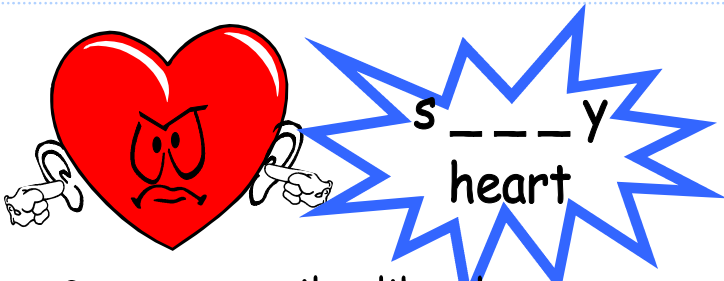
T _ _ _ _ soil - like the person who is attracted to worldly pleasures. Their love for God's Word is choked out by their worldly ways.



D _ y soil - like the person who hears God's Word and ignores His message. Satan makes sure they forget what they have heard.



G _ _ d soil - like the person who listens to the Word of God and loves and obeys Him. They will do much in this world, and their efforts will be rewarded.

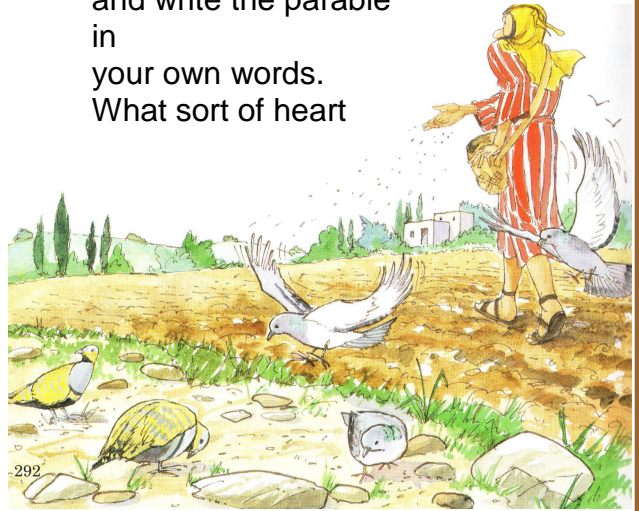


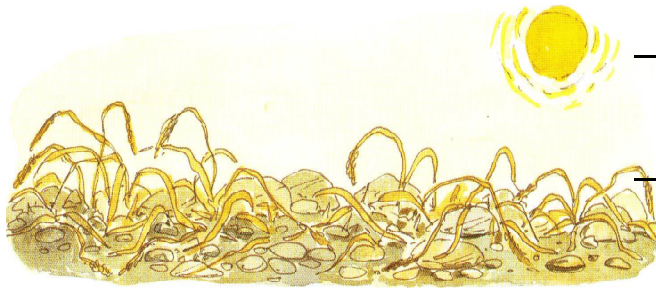
S _ _ _ y soil - like the person who accepts the Words of God, but gives it little thoughts. When trouble comes, their faith is weak.

The SEED is
G _ _ 's W _ _ d .
My heart attitude is
like _____ soil.

The SOIL and the SEED

Read Luke 8:4-15
and write the parable
in
your own words.
What sort of heart







CROSSWORD

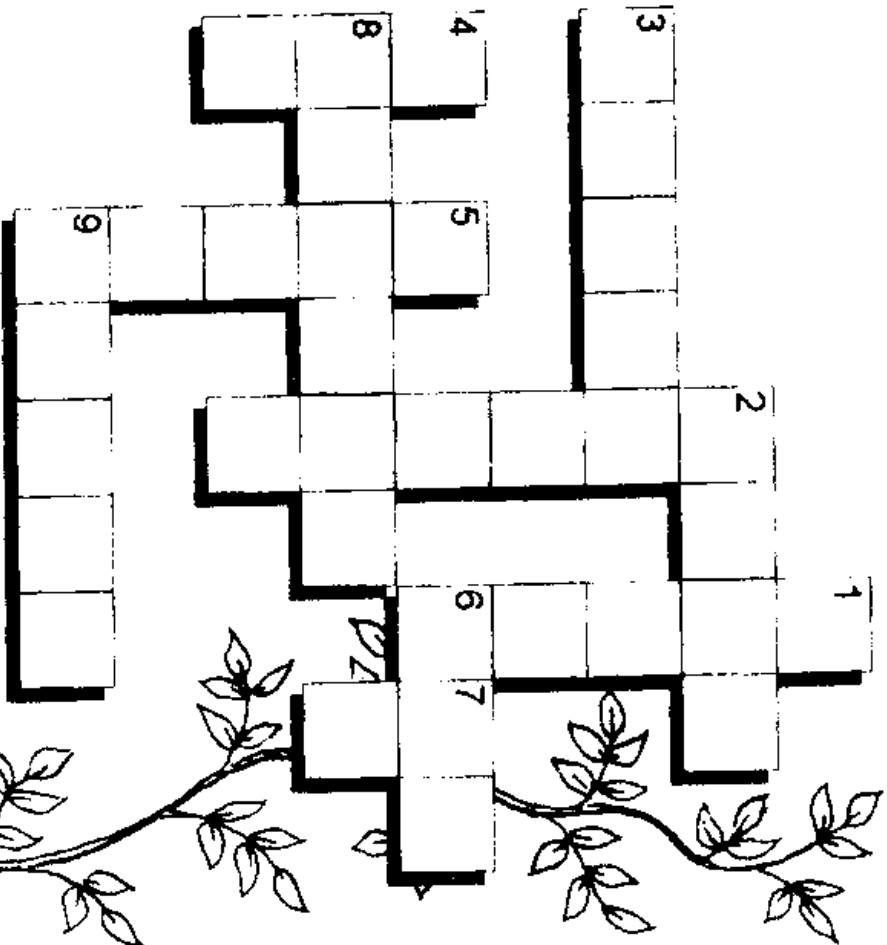
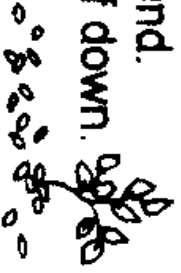
PARABLE OF THE SOWER - MARK 4:3-9

Across

- To become larger.
- One who sows.
- It rises into the sky each morning giving us light.
- Spines or prickles that grow on plants.
- Rocky, full of stones.

Down

- Birds; rhymes with "towels."
- What we walk on outside; rhymes with "sound."
- Consumed, devoured.
- Plants grow _____ to hold them to the ground.
- Opposite of down.



The SOIL and the SEED

Matthew 13:1-23

In the parable of the sower different things happen to the seed that was planted. Look up the verses and explain the meaning of the four seeds.



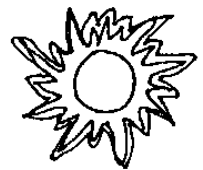
seed by wayside—eaten by birds

verse 19 (meaning in your own words) _____



seed on stony ground—scorched by sun

verse 21 _____



seed among thorns—choked by thorns

verse 22 _____

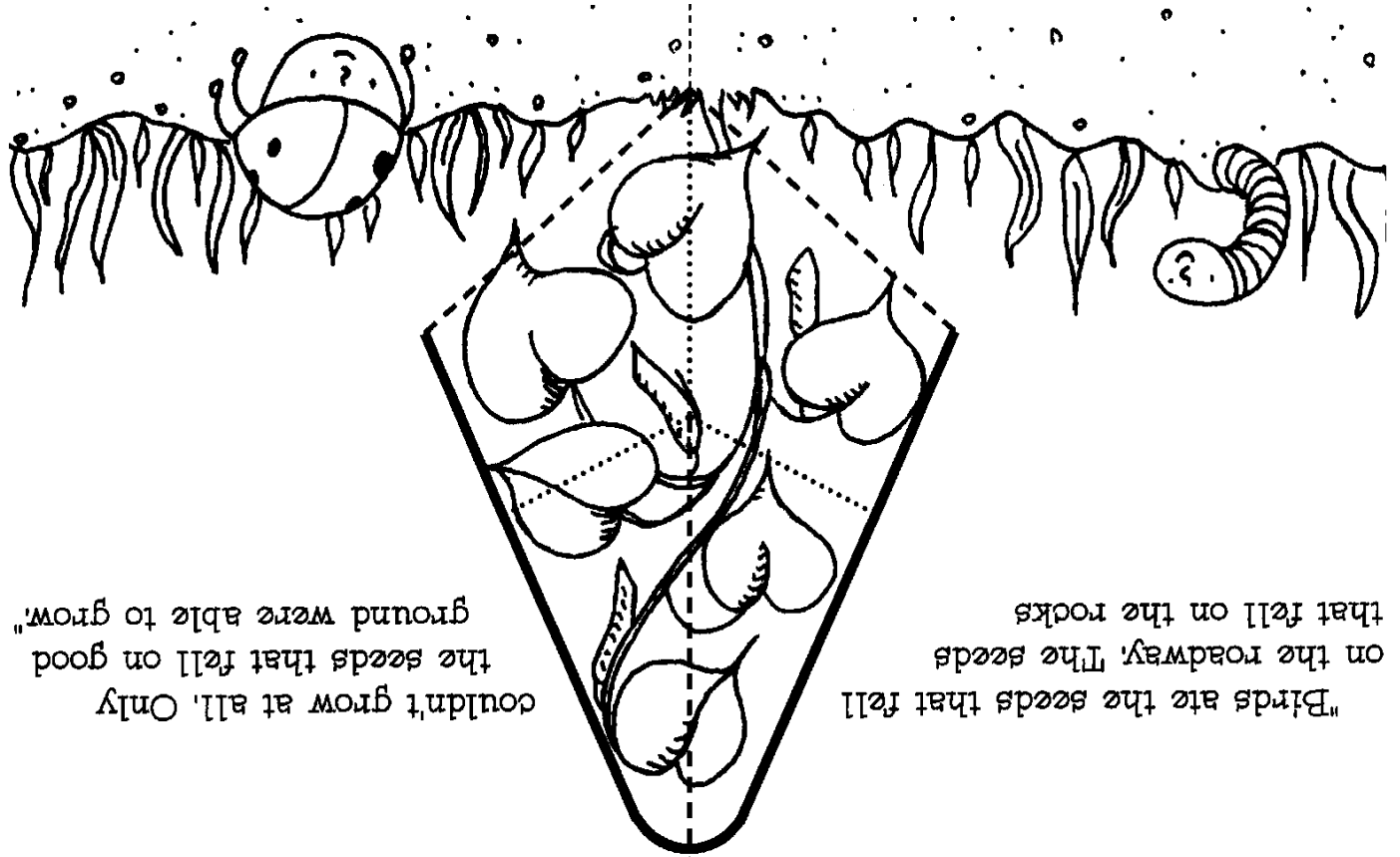


seed in good ground—fruitful

verse 23 _____



TO MAKE A 3D CARD: Colour the pictures, cut along dark lines, fold on dotted lines, trim edges.



"Birds ate the seeds that fell on the roadway. The seeds that fell on the rocks couldn't grow at all. Only the seeds that fell on good ground were able to grow."

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The Sower and the Seeds

Matthew 13:1-15



"My words are like seeds," Jesus explained. "The people who do not listen are like the rocky ground where nothing will grow or the roadway where birds eat the seeds before they can grow. But when people hear My words and believe, My love grows in their hearts like a beautiful garden."



Jesus told this story to teach an important lesson. "Once there was a farmer. He planted seeds all around. Some seeds fell on good ground, some on rocky ground, and some fell along the roadway."

SPOT the MISTAKES

There are 10 mistakes in this picture. Can you find them?

The Word of God is the 'seed' that makes our hearts like 'good soil' (Matthew 13:1-23)



ANSWERS: Bitten road, turtle, face on sun, packet of seed, foot backwards, water in sack, flower being choked by thorns, seed going upwards, wheat upside down, snail.

