



Our gospel reading today is the parable of the sower. A parable is a story that Jesus told to help those listening to him understand God's teachings better. Listen to Jesus's story when it is read in the service.

Jesus gives an explanation of the parable. We all hear God's Word, but Jesus shows us the different ways we can respond.

See if you can answer these questions:

What sort of hearer is represented by the seed that falls on the path?

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What happens to the seed that falls on rocky ground? What sort of hearer does this represent?

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What happens to the seed that falls among thorns? Who is represented in this scenario?

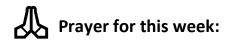
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What about the seed that falls on good soil? What happens to this seed and who does this represent?

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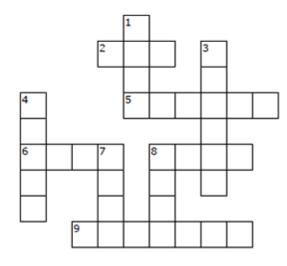
We would all like to think that we are like the seed that falls in good soil! Let's be honest, though! Very often, "the cares of the world", as Jesus puts it, prevent us from bearing good fruit and spreading the good news of Jesus. The challenge for all of us is to try and understand the Word of God and to live by it, and to tell others about the love Jesus offers us and that his kingdom is open to everyone who believes in him.



Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us through your parables. Thank you for sowing your seed so generously among all people. Help us to be like the seed that falls into good soil and to respond to your Word by learning about you and telling others about your love. Amen.

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a Based on Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
- 5. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
- Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
- A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
- 9. Not deep

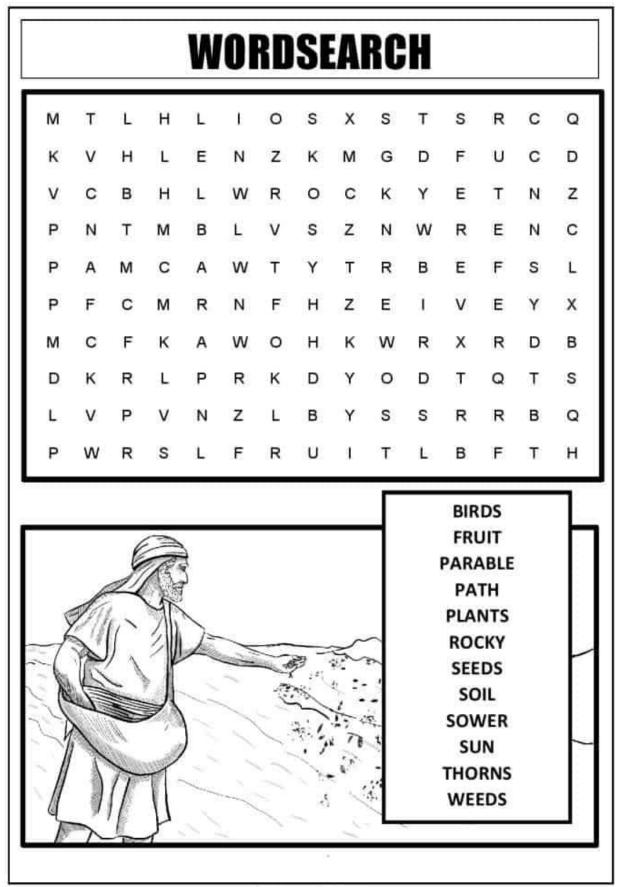
DOWN

- The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
- 3. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
- 4. Covered with stones
- A way made by or for people walking on the ground
- The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow

PATH	CROP	SOIL	THORNS	ROOT
SHALLOW	FARMER	SEED	SOW	ROCKY

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