GENESIS TO REVELATION | PARABLE

Seeds and Different Soils

Mark 4:1-20



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jesus called people to hear, receive, and live out his message.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

One Farmer, Four Places for Seed

Mark 4:1-20



A large crowd gathered beside the lake to listen to Jesus. So many people were there that he got into a boat and sat on the water while they stayed on shore. He taught them through parables. In one story, a farmer went out to scatter seed. The same act of sowing sent seeds into different places, and those places affected what happened to the growing plants.

Some seed fell beside the path. Birds came and ate it before it could grow. Other seed landed on rocky ground where the layer of soil was shallow. It sprang up quickly, but its roots could not go deep. When the sun rose, the young growth was scorched and withered. A fast beginning had not been enough to keep the plant growing when the heat came.

Some seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up around the plants and crowded them, so they produced no crop. But other seed fell into good soil. It grew, developed, and produced grain. Some yielded thirty times what had been planted, some sixty times, and some a hundred times. The farmer's seed had met different conditions, and the difference could be seen in what finally grew from it.

Jesus called his listeners to pay attention. Later, when he was away from the crowd, his followers asked him about the parables. He spoke about the mystery of God's kingdom and began explaining this story. It was not only a lesson about gardening. The farmer, the seed, and the different kinds of ground were a picture that would help the listeners consider how they were receiving the message he taught.

Remember: Listening can grow into a life that bears good fruit.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Message and the Way It Is Received



Mark 4:1-20

Jesus explained that the farmer sows the word, meaning the message being taught. The seed beside the path pictured people who hear, but Satan immediately takes away what was sown. Hearing the sound is not the same as receiving the message deeply. The story asks listeners to think about the difference between words passing their ears and words being allowed to shape their attention and understanding.

The rocky ground pictured people who receive the word with joy at first but have no deep root. When trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they fall away. A quick beginning can be real without becoming lasting growth. Jesus' explanation names the difficulty of continuing under pressure. It does not say that people who suffer must have done wrong or that faithful people never meet trouble.

The thorny ground pictured people in whom worries, the attraction of wealth, and desires for other things crowd out the word. There is growth, but no fruit. The good soil pictured people who hear, accept the message, and bear fruit in differing amounts. Jesus did not require every plant to produce one identical number. The shared quality of the good ground was receiving the seed and allowing growth to continue.

To read the picture well, remember that soil is a comparison for responses, not a fixed label stamped on a child. Jesus was teaching hearers to pay attention and understand. The fruit points toward what comes from receiving his word. A person can ask questions, seek help, and learn to practice a teaching. The parable invites that thoughtful response rather than a contest over who can claim to be the best soil.

Pause and think: What could help a teaching you hear become a thoughtful action you practice?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Make Room for Something to Grow



A seed needs more than a moment in the ground, and learning needs more than hearing a sentence once. After reading a story, you might ask what happened, what a difficult word means, or how one action follows another. Taking time to understand can help a lesson reach deeper than simply remembering a title or repeating a familiar phrase.

The thorns give us a picture of crowded attention. You may find it hard to listen when you are worried, excited, or surrounded by noise. That does not make you bad soil forever. Tell an adult what makes learning difficult and try one helpful change, such as moving somewhere quieter or talking about the worry before returning to the story.

Fruit is something growth produces. An everyday example might be hearing about fairness and then sharing turns more thoughtfully in a game. The action does not need to be dramatic to show learning. Choose one teaching you understand, try a small practice, and talk afterward about what was easy or difficult. Growth can include patience, help, and another attempt.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus invites people to hear his message, receive it deeply, and let it shape their lives.

What could help a teaching you hear become a thoughtful action you practice?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Which soil produced a crop?

2. What did the seed stand for in Jesus' explanation?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Jesus explained the different responses to his message.
- ☐ Some seeds were lost, while those in good soil produced grain.
- ☐ The farmer scattered seed across different ground.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw four little patches: path, rocks, thorns, and good growing soil.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Listening can grow into a life that bears good fruit.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Mark 4:20

A thoughtful conversation

The soils are a picture for reflection, not permanent labels for children. Difficulty concentrating, asking questions, or needing learning support does not make someone bad soil.

Activity answers

1. The good soil.
2. The message being taught.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: Jesus, help me receive your teaching with care and put it into practice.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Mark 4:1-20. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 41_Mk_04_01_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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