



PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED STORY CARDS

BACKGROUND

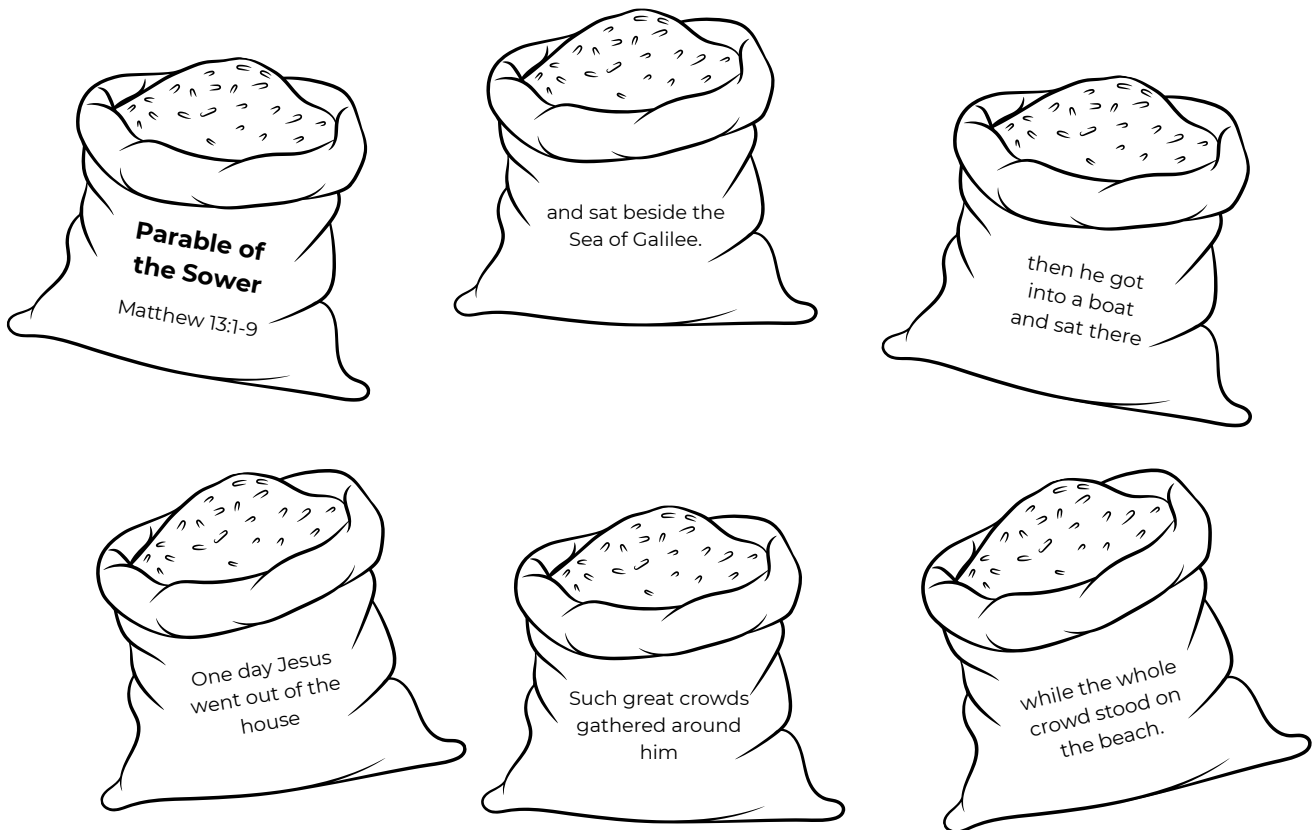
During preparation for First Communion, children become more familiar with the Mass including both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At Mass, Jesus is present in the Word and in the Eucharist and both 'feed' us in a special way.

The Parable of the Sower is a scripture connects particularly to the Liturgy of the Word because it is a scripture that helps us to think more deeply about the way we listen to God's Word (in the bible) and receive it. In the text, Jesus tells a story about a farmer who scatters seeds on different types of ground. Some seeds grow well, while others don't, depending on they type of soil on which they land. This story helps us think about how we listen to God's Word and reflect if our hearts are 'fertile ground' and ready to let His love grow in us? Just like the seeds need good soil to grow, our hearts need to be open and loving when we feed on the Word of God.

INTRODUCTION

In this activity, the children will become more familiar with the story and have an opportunity to unpack it further through discussion as a group.

Begin by reading the scripture in its entirety, then distribute the story cards and have the children work together to sort the cards into the correct order, either by laying them out on the floor or putting them up on the wall. Once the cards are in order, read the story again using the cards. Then debrief the scripture, using the suggested questions.





PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED - MATTHEW 13:1-9

That same day Jesus left the house and 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 wasn't very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have deep 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 100 or 60 or 30 times as much as was scattered. If you have ears, pay attention!

DEBRIEF

- What part of the story stood out to you the most? Why?
- Which type of soil do you think you are most like right now?
- What helps your heart be like the “good soil” that lets God’s Word grow?
- How is listening to the scripture like planting a seed in your heart?
- How can we live the Eucharist in the world?
- What can we do as a family to help each other grow in faith like the good soil?
- Why do you think Jesus used a story about seeds and soil to teach us about God’s Word?



