



Unit 6, Lesson 22

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23;
LUKE 8:1-15

THE STORY @ HOME

Jesus is teaching from a boat to a crowd of followers who just happen to be on land. Most of His hearers are Galilean farmers. He tells a parable or story about a farmer who scatters seeds. Some seed falls on the ground where birds gobble it up, while other seed falls into rocks and cannot grow. Some seed falls among nasty thorns that strangle any new growth. Some seed goes into the rich, prepared soil and grows up strong, healthy, and productive. Jesus doesn't suggest that good soil is always free from some stones or weeds but, strong seed and good soil together can overcome these problems to produce food. We can make our hearts like good soil which takes in the seeds of God's Word and, with work, worship, and patience, will produce upright fruits that honor God.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What kinds of fruits and vegetables do you like to eat?
- Using your imagination, tell what you think the crowds hearing Jesus thought of His story.
- Do you let good words and behaviors come out of your heart and show in your words, actions, and attitudes?
- I wonder what type of soil your heart has.

TOGETHER @ HOME

Family Field Trip: This week take your family to visit a botanical garden, greenhouse, or conservatory. If none of those are available, find a farm in your area that grows crops and take your family to observe the farm fields. Find out how crops are planted today. You can check online! Talk with your children about the different soils and how they help or hinder plant growth. Talk about seeds and what they can grow to become, with the proper nurture. Relate your visit and observations to the Bible story of the sower and seeds.

BIBLE MEMORY @ HOME

Our memory verse is, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness," (1 John 1:9). Cut out the shape of an apple, banana, or other fruit. Print the verse on the paper cut-out and stick it on your refrigerator where the family will see it each day. If you pack your older child's lunch with a banana, you can write the memory verse on its peel for a little lunchtime humor.

Copyright © 2014 by WordAction Publishing Company®. Permission to copy for local church use only. All other uses contact the publisher. All rights reserved. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

NT Unit 6, Lesson 22, Take-home