



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, JULY 16TH, 2023

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 13:1-9, 18-23

Matthew 13: 1-9 and 18-23

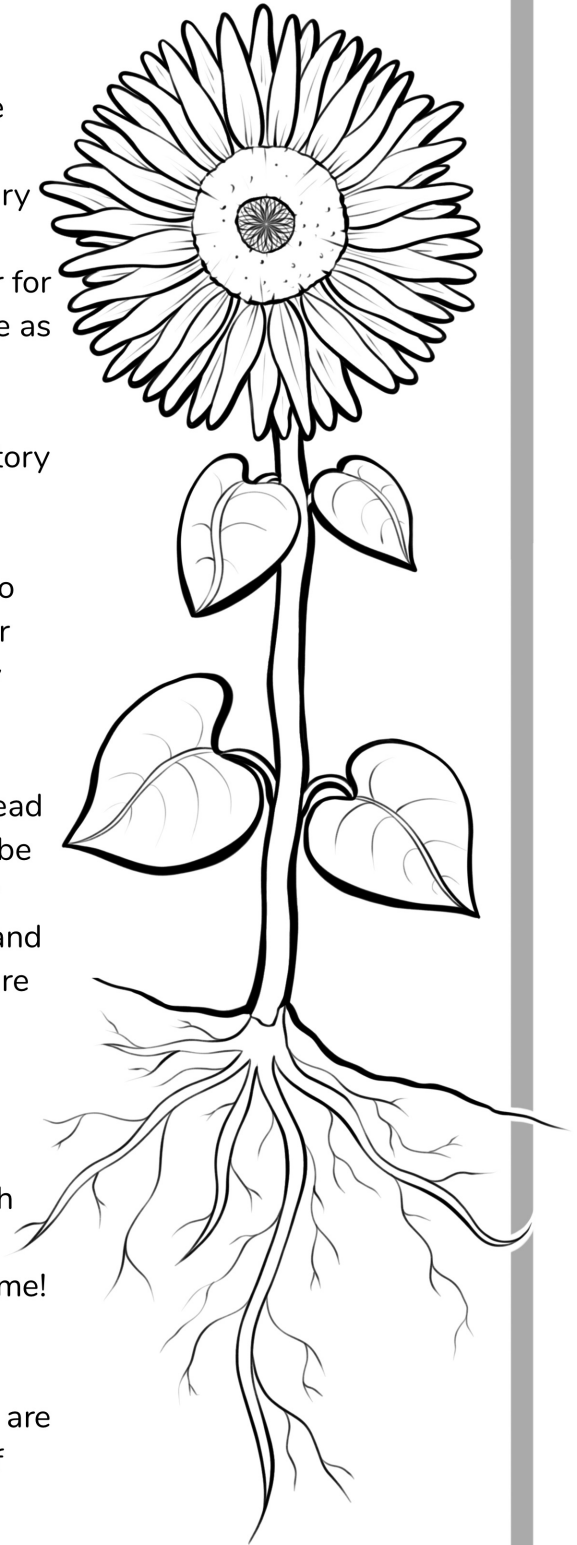
Our Gospel lesson today is Matthew's first reference to a parable, and he not only shares the Parable of the Sower, but he also passes on Jesus' reason for telling the parable and His explanation so that we can be perfectly clear about why this story has been shared with us. The Greek origin of the word Parable originally referred to the placing of two or more objects together for the sake of comparison.* We have come to understand a parable as an earthly story with a heavenly message.

In the first few verses of today's Gospel lesson Jesus tells a story about a farmer who seemed to throw his seeds here and there without much focus, on walking paths, on rocky ground, in the weeds and (some) landed on fertile soil that would allow them to grow. The farmers of Syria and Palestine must have shaken their heads at this illustration, knowing how to spread seeds properly and nurture them for growth.

Jesus isn't trying to tell farmers how to grow their crops, instead He is providing comfort and reassurance, that we don't have to be "good farmers". We don't have control over people and whether they will believe in the message of God's love, all we are called and blessed to do is "plant the seed" and The Holy Spirit will take care of the rest.

In verse 8 Jesus mentions some grain being produced a hundredfold. He is referring to the seeds that the disciples plant when they shared the good news of salvation with others, which was then passed on to others, who shared it with more people, who shared it again and on and on until it has reached you and me!

In the second half of our Gospel reading in Matthew Jesus explains in clear language what the parable means and how we are to interpret it. This not only helps us to understand the lesson of the Sower, but also our call as Christians to help nourish and nurture the seeds that have been planted in our gardens.



*Concordia study bible.



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(Continued)



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

As we share the lessons and encourage children to reflect and spend time thinking about God's word we are helping with the "understanding" Jesus refers to in verse 23: "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us about planting seeds, and about watering them with your love. Please help us to be patient and to trust in the Holy Spirit so that we might be encouraged to share the good news of salvation with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Notes: