

# Do-it-Yourself VBS

For those summer Sundays you aren't in church.

## 10 PARABLES OF JESUS IN 10 SUNDAYS

### THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

#### Supply List

- Packet of seeds, your choice
- 1 cups of potting soil
- 1 cup of loose gravel
- 2 Plastic party cups or 2 flower pots

#### The Parable

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he scattered the seed, some fell on the hard path nearby and the birds came and ate it up. As the farmer continued to plant the seeds, some of them fell on soil that was full of rocks. There was not much dirt around the rocks so the seeds started to sprout and grow the very next day. The only problem was, there was little dirt, so the plants didn't put down roots which would help them become strong and healthy. In the afternoon, the sun was very hot so the plants that had started to grow in the rocky soil withered and died because they had no root in the ground. Some of the other seeds fell on soil that had been taken over with weeds and thorns. The weeds and thorns grew faster and taller than the plants from the seeds, so they choked out the plants that the sower wanted to grow. Finally, some seed fell on the good soil that had been plowed, fertilized, and weeded to make a good place for the seed to grow. Those seeds made healthy plants and produced good fruit.

## Theology of the Parable

This parable helps us understand how God plants us in the soil we need to thrive and live a good life. If we can open our hearts and minds to his message we will grow to be God's offspring in the "garden" of our Cathedral family, as well as at home. All we have to do is listen for God's love in the Bible, then we will find God's peace to share throughout the world.

Start by reading the scripture together with your child, helping them learn where the gospels are at the beginning of the New Testament.

## Procedure

The day before your lesson soak the seeds in water to encourage germination.

Ask the children why we don't plant gardens and plant seeds in gravel instead of soil, explaining there are nutrients in the soil needed for germination and for plants to grow tall and strong.

Plant the seeds in the soil and water enough that the soil is wet, but not soaking wet. Plant some other seeds in a cup of gravel, and water them too. Place both cups on a sunny, warm windowsill and watch what happens, or does not happen.

## Discussion

This passage may seem simple but has a message for us of taking action in order to build God's kingdom.

You might like this video as well:

<https://youtu.be/V9IOhGPrRvY?si=7zOWImunNrYhJMIw>