

“Parable Garden” Parable of the Sower Activity

Objective: This Parable of the Sower activity allows the children to engage with the parable in a hands-on and interactive way, helping them visualize and understand the different types of soil mentioned in Matthew 13:1-23.

Materials needed for the Parable of the Sower activity

1. Large poster board or whiteboard
2. Markers or colored pencils
3. Construction paper
4. Scissors
5. Glue or tape
6. Small seeds or beans (optional)
7. Small envelopes or bags

Instructions for the Parable of the Sower activity

1. Begin by creating a large poster board or whiteboard display in the shape of a garden. Draw a basic outline of a garden on the board, including rows of plants or flowers.
2. Write the title “Parable Garden” at the top of the display.
3. Divide the garden into four sections, representing the different types of soil mentioned in the parable: hard path, rocky soil, thorny soil, and good soil.
4. Write numbers 1 to 4 on separate pieces of construction paper and attach them to each section of the garden, representing the corresponding types of soil. Decorate the sections to match the type of soil.
5. Cut out construction paper shapes to represent seeds and plants. Use different colors for each type of seed or plant. Alternatively, you may use real seeds and beans.
6. Prepare small envelopes or bags labeled with the numbers 1 to 4 and add some seeds and plants to each bag.
7. Gather the students and explain that you will be exploring a parable from the Bible called the Parable of the Sower.
8. Read Matthew 13:1-9, the parable itself, and explain its meaning in simple terms. You can use visual aids or props to illustrate the different types of soil.
9. Divide the children into small groups and give each group an envelope or bag containing seeds or beans.
10. Instruct the groups to plant the seeds in the corresponding sections of the garden, depending on the numbers on their envelopes or bags.
11. As they plant the seeds, encourage the children to discuss the conditions necessary for the seeds to grow and what challenges they may face in each type of soil.
12. After all the seeds have been planted, gather the children back together and read Matthew 13:18-23, which explains the meaning of the parable.
13. Lead a discussion about the parable, focusing on the different types of soil and how it relates to our lives and our faith.
14. Conclude the activity by encouraging the children to think about how they can cultivate the “good soil” in their own lives to grow in faith.