LESSON 20

THE SOWER AND THE SEED



Aim: **To show the children how different people receive God's message in different ways.**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 8:4-8**

Memory Verse: **John 1:14a**
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory ...

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Bring along four types of soil to show the class. You could put it in little piles on pieces of cardboard or on a tray. One pile should be very dry and sandy soil, the second very rocky soil, the third full of thorns or other weeds, and the fourth fertile and moist.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Many people came to see Jesus. They liked to listen to his stories, and especially to see the miracles he performed. Jesus told a story about how people received his message (Lk 8:4).
2. **Show Picture 20 and describe how the sower went out (8:5).** Do you see the seed falling along the path and the birds ready to peck it up?
3. **Continue the story, referring to Picture 20 all the time, of how some seed fell on rocky ground, some among the thorns and some on good soil – and what happened in each case (8:6-8a).**
4. At the end of his story Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (8:8b). Everybody there did have ears, so what did Jesus mean by that? He was asking if they had listened well, so that they really understood the meaning of his story.

Our Response to the Story

Jesus is the sower in this story. He shares God's message with all who come to listen to him, as if he sows the Word like seed in their hearts (8:11). Now think back to what types of soil there were in the story and the people they represent.

This is quite a short lesson, so there should be time for the following activity. With the children's help, prepare a small plot of ground about half a metre long and half a metre wide.

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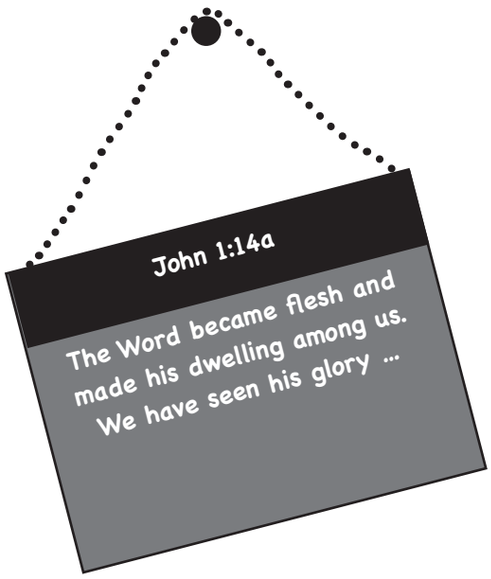
Divide it into the four types of soil: the dry path, the rocky soil, the patch full of thorns or other weeds, and the good soil. If the class is big and you have enough space, you can divide the children into four groups and give each a separate plot to prepare.

Sow a few seeds that are easy to find in your area on each plot. You can use any seed; it does not have to be something people can eat.

Arrange that the children watch and water the plot for the next week.

Note: A week may not be long enough for germination or significant growth to take place. **Therefore, it would work better if you prepared this experiment about two weeks beforehand, in a carton of which you have cut down the sides to form a shallow tray.**

Instil the Memory Verse



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