

The story of the sower

I wonder if you sowed any seeds this spring? Did they grow well? What did you grow?

Recently we've been thinking about some of the stories that Jesus told; this story is quite different to many of the others.



Watch this video which tells the story:

<https://youtu.be/W6LwEW8jX9A>

and you can find it in the Bible in Luke chapter 8, verses 4-8 and 11-15

Chat together:

I wonder what surprised you about this story?

Do you think the people who heard Jesus tell the story understood what he was saying?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

I wonder what sort of soil you think you might be?

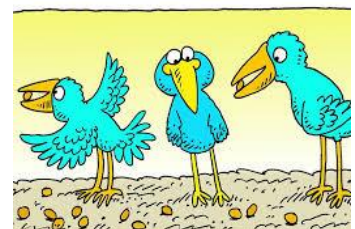
Jesus said the seed is like his words - the things he said. And the soil is like our hearts. If we are busy, or thinking about other things, we won't remember Jesus' words. But if we listen and if we love Jesus, then we will remember his words and when we take Jesus words into our hearts deeply it will be life-changing!

The Bible is God's word - and when we read it, or hear it, it is as though God plants his words in our hearts.

Pray together:

Have a think about where you fit into this story, ask God to help you and listen to hear what he is saying to you. Why not go outside, into the garden if you have one and have a look around: (If you don't have a garden, ask a grown up and go on a walk together or look at the colouring picture as you pray)

Find a path or paved area, is anything growing here? Am I like the path? Have I heard about Jesus and just walked away?



Find a stony area, what is growing here through the stones? Am I like this stony area? Have I asked Jesus to be my friend but when things have been difficult I've forgotten him?

Find an area with lots of weeds or brambles, is anything else growing strongly here? Am I like this thorny area? I've asked Jesus to be my friend but sometimes I ignore him and spend my time thinking about other things so my faith hasn't grown?

Find an area with good soil, have a look at what is growing here. Are there flowers and fruits? Am I like this good soil? Am I following Jesus day by day, loving him and treasuring his word in my heart?

Spend a few moments thinking and listening to God and maybe ask him to help you be like the good soil, pray your own prayer or you might like to pray this one:

*Father God, thank you for loving us and for all the good things you give us.
Jesus, thank you for giving us these stories that help us to understand about following you. Holy Spirit, please help us to be like the good soil, keeping the words of God in our hearts. Amen*

Do together:

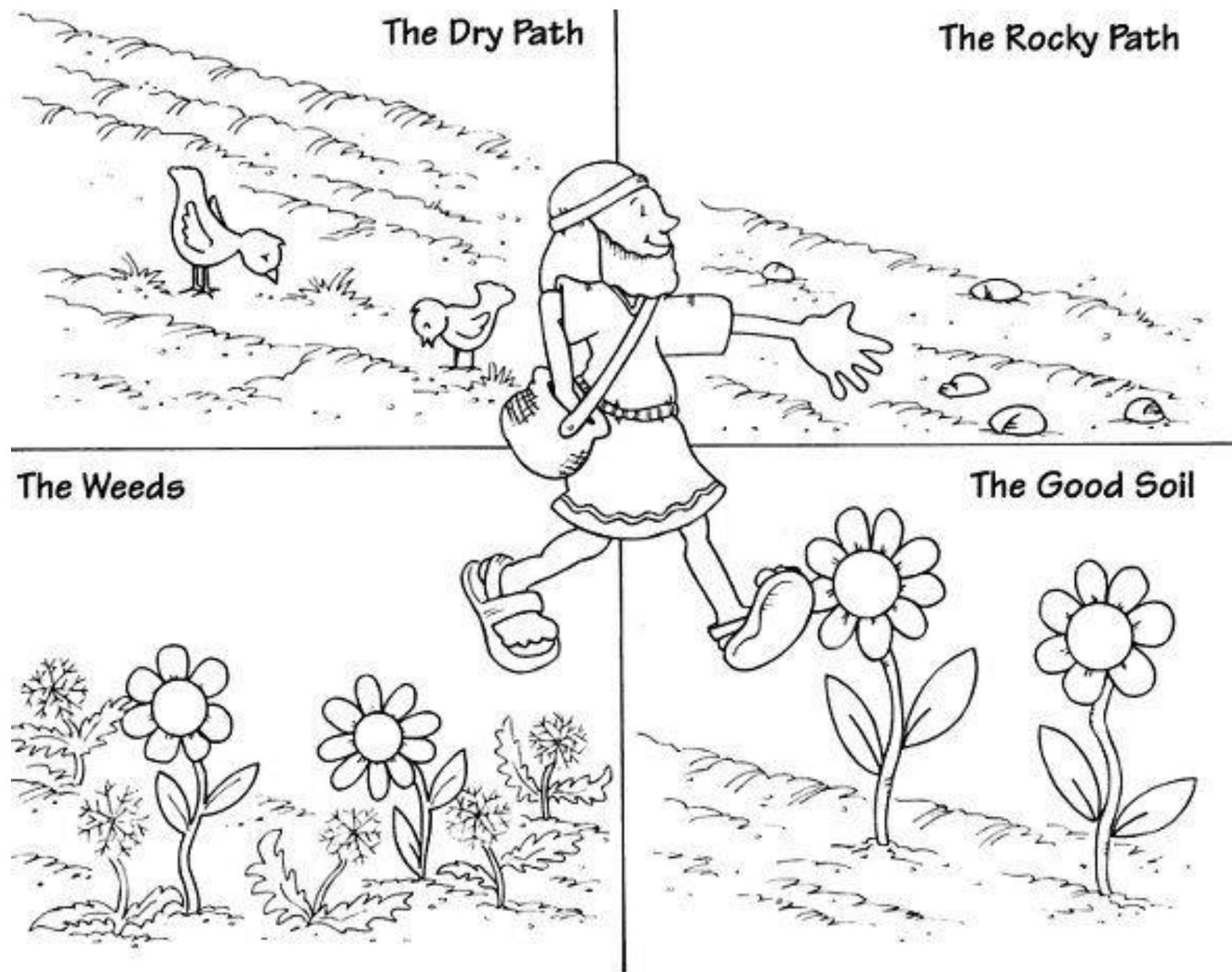
Harvest is a time when we think about all the good things we have to eat and say thank you to God for the food, the farmers, the shops and maybe our thoughts also turn to those people who don't have enough to eat? Here are a few ideas of things you can do:

Remember to say thank you to God at mealtimes, you could take it in turns to say a short prayer (often called 'grace') before you eat.

Collect some seeds from the garden or fruit and vegetables that you are eating - apple or lemon pips, melon or pumpkin seeds, conkers or acorns - plant them in a flower pot or yoghurt pot and see if they will grow. You will need to look after them!

Find out about how people farm around the world, are there still places that don't use tractors to sow seeds but scatter them by hand as in the story Jesus told? You might like to find out about farming in Indonesia which is where our sponsor child, Nevada, lives. Maybe you would like to write him a letter or draw a picture for him? (Thanks to the Metcalfe family for doing this previously!)

What could you do to help others who don't have enough to eat? Ask God to inspire and challenge you this week; I wonder how God will surprise you?



THE SOWER