

*May Mission Month*



*Two Session  
Children's Resource*

**Grow where you're planted,  
sow where He calls.**

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[www.globalinteraction.org.au](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au)



# Week One: Grow Where you're Planted

## The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23)

### 1. Tactile Demonstration

Bring in two to four different types of soils in containers (eg. rocky, dry or rich). Make sure there is a mix of healthy and unhealthy soil. Invite the children to touch and play with each of the soils in their fingertips. Ask them what differences they feel in the soils and which they think would be best for growing plants.

### 2. Discussion

- » Have you ever tried to grow something?
- » What was your experience? Did it flourish or wither away?
- » What did you do or what didn't you do to assist this outcome?

### 3. Video

Watch this engaging four minute video of the Parable of the Sower created by Trinity Cheltenham for kids: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6LwEW8jX9A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6LwEW8jX9A)

### 4. Read the Story

Now that the children have grasped an overview of the story from the video, read the story out of the Bible. Depending on the ages within your group, a children's Bible may be more appropriate.

Read **Matthew 13:1-23** together.

### 5. Story Reflection

- » The farmer plants or sows seeds in and around his field.
- » The seeds land on different types of ground and whether or not they grow well is determined by what type of soil they land on.
  - » Ask the children if they remember what the different types of soil were and what happened to the seeds.
- » Some seeds fell on the hard path and birds flew down and pecked at the seeds. Other seeds fell on the rocky ground and their roots couldn't grow deep, so as they started to grow they withered and died. Some seeds fell among weeds and although they started to grow, the weeds soon choked them.
- » Finally, some seeds fell on good soil and thrived. They grew strong roots and produced a good crop.
  - » Ask the children if they remember what Jesus meant by this story. We're not *really* talking about actual seeds and crops are we?
- » The seed represents the Word of God or hearing about Jesus and His message. Some people will hear the Word and not understand it, so the enemy can snatch the seed away (like the birds did). Others will receive the seed and be excited! However like the seed on the rocky ground, their faith doesn't grow roots, and when hardship comes their faith fades away. Some other people receive the Good News, but then they are overcome by the worries of the world and their faith is choked (like the seed among the weeds).
- » Finally some people will hear about Jesus, believe, grow strong roots of faith and be very fruitful. God uses them to do great things!



# Week One: Grow Where you're Planted

## The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23)

### 6. Discussion

This discussion time should be more than just comprehension of the story. Depending on the ages and stages of your group, you may need to modify the questions below or only use some. Suggested answers are written in italics below the questions.

- » How do we grow stronger roots in our faith?  
*(Read the Bible; talk to other people who love Jesus; talk to God; love other people; praise God...)*
- » What are some distractions or worries that take up your time?  
*(TV; video games; fighting with siblings...)*
- » How do we grow into people who can weather worldly distractions and worries and remain strong in Jesus?  
*(Be part of a church community who love Jesus; talk to God about the big and little things; ask God to help us focus on Him; start good habits with our time...)*
- » Have you ever told someone about Jesus, or that you go to church or believe in God? What was their response?  
*(Leaders to share their own stories, especially if the children are not contributing.)*
- » The farmer plants the seeds everywhere, even though he knew not all the soils would produce a crop. What does this mean for us as we share about Jesus?  
*(Talk to everyone about Jesus!)*

### 7. Mission Example

If your church partners with Global Interaction cross-cultural workers, share about them here.

- » Cross-cultural workers are people who go all over the world to share the Gospel. They are sowing seeds of the Gospel by telling people about Jesus. They are helping the seeds grow into strong plants by watering them.
  - » Watering them? Ask the children what they think watering the seeds means. Remind them that we are not talking about actual seeds.
- » They are watering the seeds with friendship, conversation, prayer, stories from the Bible, showing they care and encouragement.
  - » Is water and good soil enough? Ask the children what else a plant needs to be able to grow.
- » Water and good soil are very important, but a plant also needs the sun to grow. God is like the sun. His is working through cross-cultural workers and in the hearts of people all over the world to know and love Him. This is the best gift and it is God's work through us, and all around us, that makes life possible!
  - » Cross-cultural workers are special people... ask the children if they think they can do what cross-cultural workers do right here, where they are planted/live.

### 7. Craft Activity

Print out the template on the following page on an A4 piece of paper. Invite the children to draw a picture in each of the boxes representing the different soils.



# The Parable of the Sower

**Matthew 13:1-23**

Some seeds fell along the path,  
and the birds came and ate them up.

Some fell on rocky ground. They grew quickly but  
then withered because they didn't grow roots.

Other seed fell among weeds. The  
weeds grew up and choked the plants.

Still other seeds fell on good soil,  
where they produced a large crop.

# Week Two: Sow Where He Calls

## The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

### 1. Discussion

Suggested answers are written in italics below the questions.

For points three and four, brainstorm as a group and write answers on the board, or a large piece of paper, for all the children to see.

- » What does 'sow' mean? Remember last week where we spoke about the different soils and the sower?
- » But are we actually talking about soil and plants? No! Then what else could 'sow' mean?  
*(Invest; give; share...)*
- » We are all part of different groups that we can sow / invest / give to. What groups are you a part of?  
*(Local community; sports club; school; class; family; friendship group; church...)*
- » How can you sow / invest / give to those groups?  
*(Spend your time; show you care; help others or do chores; be encouraging...)*
- » These are all really great ways to sow into the people in your life, but can you think of other ways that the Bible also talks about?  
*(Praying for and with others; telling people about Jesus.)*

### 2. Read the Passage

Read **Matthew 28:16-20** together once. Depending on the ages within your group, a children's Bible may be more appropriate.

### 3. Key Words

Depending on your translation, determine which are the key words of the passage that are vital to its meaning. Take particular note of words that the children may not already understand, however are necessary for the comprehension of the passage.

- » Ask the children which words they have never heard before. Can they guess their meaning?

Explore the meaning of each key word and brainstorm synonyms.

### 4. Read the Passage again

Now that the children have grasped the meaning of the key words, read the passage again. When you come to a key word, stop and ask the children what it means. Then start the verse again so the meaning of the verse as a whole is not lost due to the stopping and starting.

### 5. Discussion

This discussion time should be more than just comprehension of the story. Depending on the ages and stages or your group, you may need to modify the questions below or only use some. Suggested answers are written in italics below the questions.

- » Who is the Great Commission for?  
*(Those who were present and listened to Jesus at the time AND all who follow Him throughout history... including us!)*



# Week Two: Sow Where He Calls

## The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

- » What good comes from fulfilling the Great Commission?  
*(We grow closer to God because we are following His commands; other people hear about Jesus and are given the opportunity to enter the Kingdom; God is pleased...)*
- » Where can we fulfil this Great Commission?  
*(Anywhere and everywhere! But for this to be fulfilled in 'all nations', God calls some people to go to other places to live and share His stories. We have to be open to God asking us to be the people who go.)*

### 6. Mission Example

If your church partners with Global Interaction cross-cultural workers, share about them here.

- » Cross-cultural workers have followed God's call to share the Good News of Jesus all over the world. They are sowing into people's lives and the community by loving people, listening to them, helping them and sharing stories of Jesus with them.
- » They have moved to places completely different to what they know and to communities who speak a completely different language to the one they do.
  - » Wow! That sounds really difficult! Ask the children why they think these cross-cultural workers would move to another place and community.
- » Cross-cultural workers love God and want everyone to have the opportunity to hear about God. They have heard the Great Commission and decided the way God wants them to follow it... is to go!

### 7. Craft Activity

Although not all of us are called to go to another country to share the Good News... we can all sow / invest / give to our community like cross-cultural workers.

Print out the template on the following page on an A4 piece of paper. Invite the children to draw a picture in each of the boxes representing various different ways we can sow into people's lives and our community.

### 8. Song

Seeds Family Worship has produced a catchy song related to a key verse of the Great Commission. The song is called 'Go' and refers to verse 19 of Matthew chapter 28. On a TV screen or projector, play one of the videos below and sing with the children.

Remember, they'll match your level of enthusiasm... so keep your actions strong, your voice loud and your smile big!

**Song with animated lyrics:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuVMm3EKsSs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuVMm3EKsSs)

**Song with the actions demonstrated:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aADUKP0s0xo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aADUKP0s0xo)

*To break up the 'talking' time and get the children active in the middle of the session, you may choose to sing the song between sections four and five as well as, or instead of, the end.*



# I can sow...

... with my time...

... with my gifts and talents...

... by helping people...

... by praying for people...

... by telling others about Jesus!

.....

*How else can  
YOU sow?*