

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan

Date: 19th January 2025



TITLE:	Parable of the Sower. Matthew 13:1-8
THEME:	God's word is for everyone and everyone receives God's word differently
AIM:	Understand that the 4 soils are not permanent We can change them by our responses to God's word.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The parables of Jesus are always set in situations that His listeners would understand. Today, however, not many of those situations are familiar with our lives. How often do we sow seeds or farm the land? So we need to understand the context and background so we can understand what Jesus is saying to us today! The parables always point us to a truth about God's kingdom, reveal more about Jesus or challenge our attitudes and behaviours. The parable of the sower could also be the parable of the soils. What we learn is that people react differently to God's word!

WARM UP

Set up 5 paper cups with scores of 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 on the side. Take turns throwing 5 dried peas, (one at a time) from a short distance. Who can score the most?

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Read the passage in Matthew 13:1-8 and/or watch clip from The Chosen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBvclAMh49Q>

Discussion: What does the parable teach us? Get them to reflect on the obvious points.

Key teaching point: God's word is not accepted by everyone in the same way. We all approach it differently, we all respond differently. BUT God's word WILL always produce fruit somewhere, so don't stop sharing God's word.

Activity 2. Distractions happen when God's word is used.

Read the passage of scripture from the sheet (see resources section/separate sheet). Interspersed in it are random words and phrases. Will the YPs get distracted by them? Will you get to the end of the passage before one of them interrupts you? Who knows?

1. Did the story make sense? 2. How put off were you by the distracting words?
3. What sort of things can distract us when we are reading or listening to God's word?
4. How can we not get distracted? Look up 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Ephesians 6:16.

Key teaching point: Satan likes to distract us when God's word is being used. Our mobiles, stomachs, family, friends can all somehow just get in the way of us reading scripture properly. **Ask: Why does Satan want to do this?** Because God's word is powerful and life changing. He wants to stop us hearing it!

Activity 3. Stay in God's word until it takes root. My son gave up learning the saxophone because after three lessons he couldn't do it! (use an example of your own).

1. What have you wanted to do and then given up quickly because it became hard, or too time consuming?
2. How hard do you revise for school tests? Is there a link between the harder you work and the better you get?
3. How do we get better knowledge and understanding of God's word? Does it appear in our brains?

Watch clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo5y3Ydyhtc> of David Beckham scoring a 93rd minute equaliser against Greece to send England to World cup 2002. Was he lucky? No, hours and hours of practice meant that just when it was needed he knew what to do!

Key teaching point: We will not grow in our faith unless we put in the effort to study God's word, come to church, worship together, pray together, study together and serve together.

Activity 4. Thorns or wheat? What will you choose? At some point we will need to decide who we will serve. God or our own desires? The third type of soil is a picture of a person who is trying to do both. Sin and personal desire will take over. You have to root the bad stuff out!

1. Who had read Jekyll and Hyde? What is the story? Effectively an inner struggle between good and evil.
2. What does the Bible say about the struggle with sin? Hebrews 12:1-2, Colossians 3:5-6, Psalm 19:13-14 . Look up the verses and discuss them.

Key teaching point: We must make a choice for God and rid ourselves of things that bring us down. Selfish desire, greed, lust, excessive ambition, godless thoughts and actions. These will strangle us if we let them! Matt 6:33 gives us good advice— put God first.

Activity 5. How is your heart? The true believer has allowed his heart to be transformed by God. He longs to know God, study His word and worship Him. When He does this his life becomes fruitful. He will grow and be a blessing to others!

Read Micah 6:8. 1.What does a person doing this look like? Discuss what it means to be just, humble and merciful. 2. How does a person bear fruit?

Key teaching Point. The more we remain in Jesus and follow Him, the more our lives become like Micah 6:8. We bear fruit when we help to grow God's kingdom, by serving Him.

TAKEAWAY

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

Paper cups/ dried peas