



08.16.2009 Mark 4: 1-20

Materials Needed

1. Small watermelon (not a seedless watermelon) cut up into several pieces. There should be one small piece of watermelon for each child. As they eat the watermelon have them place all the watermelon seeds into a single bowl.
2. Lyrics to "Sow the Seeds" (attached)
3. Ask a friend: 128 pieces of candy or other object and brown paper bag(activity attached)
4. Copy of memory scripture verse for younger children to have and older kids to copy (paper and pencil or crayons)

Memory Verse:

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation". Mark 16:15

Opening Activity

1. Serve the watermelon to the kids, and have them place the seeds in the bowl. Have them guess how many seeds may be in the bowl. Then, count the seeds and say "Isn't it amazing that when we plant just one watermelon seed we got this delicious watermelon and all these additional watermelon seeds. If we planted all these seeds we would have more watermelon than we would know what to do with!"
2. Teach kids to sing the song "Sow the Seeds" to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat.
3. Distribute copy of memory verse, and have older kids write it down. Review the memory verse.
4. Read Mark 4:1-20

Discussion

Question 1: This is a story about seeds. What does the seed represent in the story? (word of God)

Question 2: Where did the seeds fall? (path, rocky places, thorns, and good soil)

Question 3: What happened to the seeds after they fell?

Path=Birds ate them

Rocky places=Little soil and no way to hold nutrients=Plants withered

Thorns=Weeds grew and choked plants

Good soil=Plants grew and yielded a crop a hundred times more than what was planted

Summary

Jesus explains in this parable, "The seed is the word of God. Those along the path hear the word, but the devil comes and takes the word from their hearts, so they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock receive the word with joy, but have no roots. They believe for a while, but when trouble comes because of the word, they fall away. Those among the thorns hear the word, but then they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not grow. But the seeds on the good soil have a noble and good heart. They hear the word, keep it and produce a crop."

Questions to think about:

1. How does the seed falling on good soil compare to us being a follower of God? (We are good soil when we are bearing fruit)
2. What does it mean to bear fruit? (We live in the ways that God wants us to live – following Jesus, trusting God, honoring our father and mother, sharing the Good News and love of Jesus with others – can you think of more?)



3. How can we share the Good News and love of Jesus with others? (tell them how much Jesus loves them, that He died because He wants to rescue them, pray for them and with them, share Bible stories, invite them to church)
4. Complete "Ask a friend activity" (attached)

Application

It is important that we understand rules and know right from wrong. When we hear God's words they should not blow away. It's good for us to have receptive hearts that hear God's word and allow it to take root in our hearts. Then, we should follow Him by doing what He asks and telling others about Him. We won't be perfect and we will make mistakes, but we must try our best to live a life that is pleasing to God. When we trust that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead to save us from our sin, God's Holy Spirit helps us to live the life that God wants us to live. Pray for a receptive heart that will hear and be transformed by God's good news that Jesus loves us and died for our sins to bring us back to the Father.



“Sow the Seeds”

Lyrics (sung to the tune of Row, Row, Row your Boat”)

Sow, sow, sow the Word,
Precious seeds of Faith;
Some that fall along the path,
Are quickly snatched away.

Sow, sow, sow the Word,
Precious seeds of Truth;
Some that fall on rocky soil,
Won't last the whole day through.

Sow, sow, sow the Word,
Precious seeds of Hope;
Some that fall among the thorns,
Grow weak from fear and woe.

Sow, sow, sow the Word,
Precious seeds of Life;
Some that fall into good soil,
Will live a life for Christ.

**Activity: "Ask a Friend"****Preparation:**

Before the lesson, put the 128 pieces of candy (or other items like paper clips) in the brown paper bag.

Activity

Jesus told us to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15) In Romans 10: 14,15 the Bible says, "How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news?"

(Take one piece of candy out of the bag.) This piece of candy represents the very first kid to come to Vintage 21. After church, this kid went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take another piece of candy out of the bag and place it next the other.) Now there were two kids at Vintage 21. After church, these two kids went home and each told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ and asked those friends to come to church the next week.

(Take out two pieces of candy and place them next to the others) Now there were four kids at Vintage 21. After church, these four kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out four pieces of candy...then eight...then sixteen...then thirty-two...then sixty-four, each time repeating the phrase these kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(When doubling the sixty-four pieces of candy, simply dump out the rest of the bag.) Now there are one hundred and twenty-eight kids at Vintage 21. In just eight weeks, the size of Children at Vintage 21 grew from 1 to 128 kids. (Give each child two-pieces of candy) Here is a reward for hearing about what it means to go into the all the world and preach the good news. Enjoy one piece, and share the other with a friend.

Note: you may use less pieces, just apply the same content and make sure that there is enough at the end for kids to see the importance of growth within the community based on sharing God's word.