

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
The Sower
from Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

God's word is sown like a farmer sows seeds.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Scorch
- Wither
- Endure
- Persecution
- Yield

Jesus does not usually offer explanations for the parables.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 292-293

Spark Bible pages 1073-1074

Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sharing your wisdom generously, with abandon. Please help our understanding. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What would you like to plant?
- 2 Which plant reminds you most of God?
- 3 What is needed for faith to grow?
- 4 Plan a garden together. Where will it be? What will you plant? How will you tend it? Draw it out.



Eye Spark

Look for signs of new growth.



Ear Spark

Listen for signs of new growth.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Plant something together, from a pot or two to a garden.

For younger kids

Water the family plants.

For older kids

Research the needs of a new plant that your family can pot or garden.

TRY IT

Art

Add a bit of water to some potting soil to make a muddy fingerpaint creation. Have everyone “paint” a funny self portrait on fingerpaint paper. Talk about how we can be good soil where God’s Word can grow.

Computer Lab

Sit together at the computer. Search for “heroes” or “modern-day heroes.” Create a document and write a list of qualities that make these heroes “good soil.” Add clip art. Print and display your list. Talk about it throughout your week, pointing out good qualities on your list that you see in each other.

Creative Drama

Plant a houseplant in a glass container so you can see the roots. Observe how the roots grow into the soil. How does being “rooted” in Jesus’ love make your family stronger? Reread this story at bedtime.

Video

Invite the artists in your family to draw a colorful picture of sunflowers, including space for roots. Draw one flower representing each member of your family, and label the sunflowers accordingly. Glue a few sunflower seeds onto the roots of each flower. Next to each seed write a quality that the family member possesses that makes him or her “good soil.” Shoot a brief video to record this art and interview the artist(s) so your family can look back at this activity.

Bible Skills and Games

Find planting patterns online or in a nearby garden or field. Are you able to tell what pattern of planting was used? Why did the sower choose this pattern? What patterns in our lives help us to grow in faith? Patterns could include attending worship and Sunday school every week, praying before meals and bedtime, or setting aside a certain time weekly to read the Bible as a family. Is there a new pattern you could try together? Remember God’s Word will find amazing ways to grow in your life.

Cooking

Make flowerpot cupcakes! Get a cake mix and pour batter into flat-bottomed ice cream cones. Set each cone in a muffin tin. Bake according to cake mix directions. Then decorate with frosting, sprinkles,

and add a flower (flatten a gumdrop, mold it to the shape of a flower, and stick it on a wooden skewer). Talk about how our faith grows strong and blooms like a flower when we nurture it.

Music

Wash your family vehicle together, playing lively music as you scrub. Discuss how you use your vehicle to spread the good news. Maybe you give someone a ride to church. Maybe you pick up treats for the Sunday school class. Maybe you do errands for someone who can’t get out. Think of four things that your family might do to “go” with the “good news” and spread a little love—in Jesus’ name.

Science

Visit a garden center or nursery. Look at seed packets and read the directions to find the proper growing zone for the seeds. Choose seeds that you can plant at home, or purchase a seedling or established plant. Take turns caring for the plant so that it grows healthy and strong. Talk about things you do for each other to make sure each family member grows healthy and strong in their faith, such as praying for each other, reading the Bible together, and helping each other when someone is feeling down.