

The Sower

based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-33

One day Jesus told this story:

A farmer went out to sow some seeds. He put the seeds into a bag and walked out to the field to scatter them on the soil. The farmer walked through the field, scattering seeds everywhere. When the bag was empty, he went home.

Now some seeds fell on hard ground. They laid on the soil, and birds came and ate them up.

Some seeds fell on rocky ground. The seeds sprouted and grew quickly at first. But when the sun came out, they died because they could not put down deep roots.

Some seeds fell in the weeds. The seeds started to grow, but the weeds grew faster. The seeds did not get enough sun and water and didn't grow.

But some seeds fell on the good soil. This soil was soft and rich. The seeds put down deep roots and began to grow. God sent lots of water and sunshine. Soon the seeds grew into strong plants. They grew and produced lots of grain.

The disciples were puzzled, and asked, "What does this story mean?"

















"The seed is God's love," Jesus explained. "You are the sower. You must plant God's love everywhere. The people you meet are like the soil.

"You will find that some people are like the hard ground. They are not ready to hear about God's love, so it won't grow in them.

"Other people are like the rocky soil. At first they are happy to hear about God's love, but when trouble comes they forget.

"Other people are like the weedy soil. They welcome God's love, but then they get too busy and others things distract them.

"But sometimes people are ready to hear about God's love and it grows deep down inside them. When that happens, they tell others about God's love, too. These people are like the good soil and God's love grows and grows in them."

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Use the key to decode the message Jesus had for the crowd.

