

Jesus Likens Hearers to Four Kinds of Soil

About 2 minutes, from Matthew 13: 3-9, 18-23

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

- Voice (of Jesus)
Plant
Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.
Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.
- Voice Hear what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. A sower goes to plant grain.
- Planter Why lug this heavy seed any farther?
I will sow them here by the road. (*Pretend to scatter seeds.*)
Now, what do you think happens to these seeds?
- Prompter & Echoes Tweet! Tweet! (*Pretend to flap your wings, pick up seeds and eat them.*)
- Voice Birds snatch up the seed! Some hear God's Word but fail to grasp it; the evil one snatches it away before it takes root in their hearts.
- .Planter Thieving birds! I'll sow the seed among these rocks, where the birds `won't see it. (*Pretend to scatter seed.*)
- Voice The seed springs up at once, as it has no depth of soil.
- Planter Hey! Something's wrong!
- Prompter & Echoes Drying up! (*Stretch arms out like branches of a plant and look up. Then wither, dropping slowly to the ground.*)
- Planter The sun dries the plants in the rocky soil; they lack root and wither.
- Voice The rocky soil is those who hear God's Word and receive it with joy, but they have no firm root in themselves.
When trouble or persecution comes because of God's Word, they fall away. He who has ears, let him hear.
- Planter I'll sow the seed here in the shade of these plants.
They have thorns, but they'll shield the hot sun.
(*Pretend to scatter seed.*) What's happening?
- Voice The thorn bushes choke the new plants out.
- Prompter & Echoes Strangled! (*Grip your throat and fall.*)
- Voice The thorny soil is like those who hear God's Word, but worries of the world and the treachery of riches choke it.
The seed yields no fruit.
- Planter I've been lazy. I'll sow the seed far from the road and those birds, where it's neither rocky nor weedy. (*Pretend to sow.*)
See how the seed grows!
- Prompter & Echoes (*Stand straight and lift your hands toward heaven*) A huge harvest!
- Voice The good soil is like one who hears God's Word, grasps it and bears fruit, thirty, sixty or a hundredfold. He who has ears, let him hear.