

Get Ready!

Good Soil

By: Rebecca Dauksas



Text

Matthew 13:1-23

Key Quest Verse

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.
Matthew 13:23

Bible Background

The Parable of the Sower is found in Matthew 13 (v.1-23); Mark 4 (v.2-20) and Luke 8 (v. 4-15). Christ was traveling from one village to another “proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God” (Luke 8:1). At this time in His ministry, He had a large crowd following Him. People would come to Him from town after town (Luke 8:4). This large crowd included His disciples and many other women who helped financially to support their efforts (Luke 8:2-3). In Matthew chapter 12, we see the interaction with the groups that were present in Christ’s life—the critical Pharisees and teachers of the law (Matthew 12:38-45), the curious, needy crowd (12:46), Christ’s family members (12:46-47) and His disciples (12:49-50). It is interesting to note that the crowd was so large that Christ got into a boat to teach while the people remained on the shore (Matthew 13:1-2). This is where Christ gives the parable of the Sower. Matthew 13:3-9 is the parable itself without explanation, but the disciples came to Christ for the meaning. The meaning is explained in verses 18-23. Note that there are seven parables in Matthew 13 explaining the Kingdom- the Sower v.3-23, parable of the weeds (v. 24-30), the mustard seed (v. 31-32), the yeast (v. 33), the hidden treasure (v. 44), the pearl of great value (v. 45-46) and the net (v. 47-50). Matthew used the term the Kingdom of heaven in his gospel, but it is not used in any of the other three gospels or in the rest of scripture. This term only appears in the book of Matthew. In other scripture it is called the Kingdom of God or simply the kingdom. In the parable of the Sower we find that Christ reveals the knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom (v.11), to His disciples. Why? Perhaps because they came to him and tried to understand more fully. They were not satisfied with the parable alone. Twice in this chapter the disciples come to Christ to discover the true meaning of His teaching (v.10 and v. 36). This example in the scripture can teach us to ask God and His son for the truth as we seek it diligently.

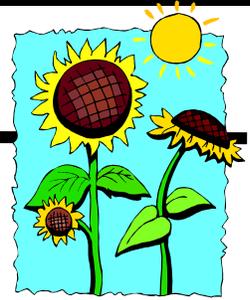
Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** God wants them to spread the message of His Coming Kingdom and will help them do this**Feel:** God loves them and wants them to feel joy about the good news in His Word**Do:** Accept the message of the Kingdom, study to understand it and let others know so they can become a part of it**Leader's Devotion**

For anyone that has raised a garden before, you know what it means to have an abundant crop coming in at harvest. There have been many times when I have heard, "We have more vegetables than we know what to do with". Tomatoes, squash, beans . . . they are great, and what a huge amount of food is grown from such a little seed. The parable of the Sower concludes by telling us to produce a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what is sown (Matthew 13:23). The crop in this parable is much more important than tomatoes because it grows from a special seed. The seed is the message of the Kingdom. We read in Matthew 13:11, He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Again in Matthew 13:19 it states, When anyone hears the message about the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

As teachers we are busy spreading a lot of seeds. Our hope is to bring others into the Kingdom of God with us. I know this is my prayer for every student in my class. I want them to stand with me as we see Christ Jesus return and set up the eternal Kingdom of God. How exciting! Now if we can only excite our teens with our dream. We pray that our students will accept the message and begin to plant their own seeds. That they will spread the Good News of the Kingdom to others around them. That they will widen their focus and reach out to other parts of the country. That they will realize that through missions we can reach other parts of the world with the same message that Christ shared. In Luke 4:43 we read, But he said, "I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." What a privilege we share as teachers to spread the message of the good news to our teens? What a privilege as Christians to share the message of the coming Kingdom of God with the world? We are truly privileged to be messengers of God's word, to be teachers.

Get Set!

Option A



Materials: a hoe (or other garden tool), shelled Sunflower seeds, napkins
 If we decided to plant a garden, what would be some of the obstacles that we would encounter? What are some of the things that we would have to change to make our garden grow? (Hard ground-till the soil, birds -scarecrow, weeds and grass-hoeing and pulling weeds, insects and diseases– pesticides and plant treatments, etc.) **There are many obstacles that stand in the way of having a garden that thrives. But if we overcome these problems we have a garden that produces lots of wonderful things to eat. We are rewarded for our efforts.** (Let the students enjoy some sunflower seeds.)

Christ was the great teacher. He used a parable to symbolize the good news of the Kingdom as seed being scattered by a Sower. The different types of soil were the people receiving the seeds. There are many things that each person must face when they hear the invitation to be a part of the coming Kingdom. We may not understand what we are being taught so we soon forget about it. We may face opposition or disbelief from our friends and turn away. We may become so worried about everything that is going on around us that we just don't have time for God. We may start looking at what others have and become materialistic. We want everything now so we don't want to wait for a reward. Christ gives us a parable that will teach us how to receive this good news. Let's check it out in Matthew chapter 13.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: post it notes, letters in envelopes, message in a bottle, message board, telephone (or any other things that can represent sending a message)

What do all these things help people do? (Send a message.)

Christ taught the people in parables. Each parable contained a message of an important moral lesson or spiritual truth. Christ used each parable to teach an important spiritual truth to the people He was with and for each of us today. Each parable contains an important message. When we read the parables of Christ in the New Testament, there are some questions that we can ask that help us understand the parable. What is the true meaning of this parable? What is it teaching me? How can I apply it to my life?

Many of those in the crowd that followed Jesus H teachings. Some understood and some did not. The disciples came to Jesus after the crowds left and asked Him questions to understand even more. We want to be like the disciples. We want to understand what Christ is telling us and put it into practice in our lives. Let's look at one of these parables in Matthew 13:1.



GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Materials: Blackboard with chalk or dry erase board with marker, copies of “The Kingdom” worksheet (one for each student)

Christ was the great teacher. He used parables to teach us great truths about life. One of those is the parable of the Sower. It is recorded in Matthew 13. Let’s read verses 1-2. By this time in His ministry crowds were following Jesus. They had heard Him teach and had seen Him heal many people (Matthew 12:15). Imagine if you were in that crowd that day. You were following Jesus to hear what He would teach you. If you have ever been in a large crowd of people you know what it is like- difficult to hear, difficult to see, sometimes being pushed to the back. Jesus gets into a boat so He can be heard by the entire crowd. Now each person can hear His voice being carried over the water. Let’s hear the parable that He gave to the people that day. Read verses 3-9.

The disciples came to Christ to ask Him a question in verse 10. "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" Lets read verses 11-13 to hear Christ’s answer. In verse 11, Christ explains what the parable is truly about -The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom. We see that the disciples are receiving the complete message while the people only received the parable. Christ goes on to explain in verses 14-15. Read verses 14-15. The people were curious they wanted to see the miracles, hear the teaching and watch what Jesus did, but many missed the main point. The Messiah was right in front of them and they did not know Him! They saw the miracles and heard His teaching, but they refused to accept Christ as Lord. In verse 15 we read that the hearts of the people had become calloused. What does this mean? (You may want to discuss that the adjective callous means: emotionally hardened; unfeeling. For example, to be indifferent to the suffering of others. Their hearts, describing their emotions or feelings, had become thickened or hardened. They did not feel sympathy, remorse-that would lead to repentance, love, etc.) Let’s read verses 16–17 to see how the disciples differed from the crowds. The disciples went a step further, they stayed with Jesus and listened to the explanations of His teaching. Their hearts were not calloused, but open to His teaching. They wanted to understand what was right and do it. What do you think the prophets and righteous men longed to see and hear? (To see the Messiah, the Christ, and hear His teachings.)

In verse 18 Christ explains that He is going to share the true meaning of the parable. Let’s read verses 18 and 19. What are we told is the message in verse 19? (The message about the Kingdom.) The message of the Kingdom was important to Christ. He used seven other parables in this same chapter to explain what the Kingdom is like? Have students look through chapter 13 to see how Christ uses seven other parables to explain the Kingdom. Write on the board as you find the Sower v. 3-23, parable of the weeds (v. 24-30), the mustard seed (v. 31-32), the yeast (v. 33), the hidden treasure (v. 44), the pearl of great value (v. 45-46) and the net (v. 47-50). What does the second part of verse 19 state? If the person

Get Set!



Bible Story

does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. How can we avoid missing the point of the message? (Ask God to help us understand, study, talk with others who know the scriptures, etc.) Let's read verses 20-21 to see another way that people receive the message? What would be some modern day trouble or persecution that we may feel as Christians? Do you think other Christians in other parts of the world have greater persecutions than we do? How can we stand firm in the word and not fall away when we face trouble or persecution? (Ask God for His power- His Spirit to help us and make us strong, etc.) What other obstacles could we face in verse 22. Read verse. What are some of the worries of life? How does the deceitfulness of wealth affect some people? (Let students respond.) We know that a lot of people become involved in horrible activities, often with the excuse that it was for the money. But there is also the danger of putting work and making money as the first priority in our lives. God should be first in our lives and then we should build the others parts of our lives around Him. Other traps of only wanting the most expensive name brand clothes and buying the most expensive things to impress our friends could tell us that we are becoming materialistic. The deceitfulness of wealth says that if we have lots of money and stuff then we will be happy. These things will not make us complete, only God does that.

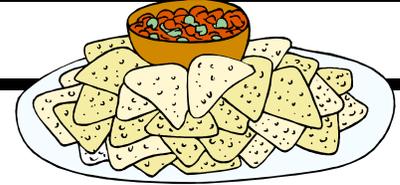
So how should we receive the seed. Let's read verse 23 to find out. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." According to verse 23, what must we do to be good soil? (Hear the word and understand it.) What does it mean that we must hear the word and understand it? (By discovering what the Bible says to us. We know that the words of God and Christ are recorded there. Make ourselves available to God in all the areas of our lives. It may include attending church and listening to teachers, pastors and others, personal Bible study, studying Christian subjects, attending Bible Study groups, etc.)

The last portion of verse 23 tells us that we should produce a crop. In this parable the good seed was the message of the Kingdom. We should also look into God's word to find out the wonderful news about the Kingdom of God. God has a wonderful Kingdom prepared for His followers. In order to produce a crop, we need to share this news with others. When we bring others to God, we produce a crop.

We want to be the good soil that receives the seed and produces a crop. Let's say this verse together. "But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Matthew 13:23

Hand out The Kingdom Where? When? How? Worksheets and review with the students.

Salsa And Chips



FOOD Be Aware of Food Allergies!

Open the cans of corn, tomatoes and beans. Take out some kernels of corn, tomato seeds and beans. Let the students look at their size.

Look at the size of this kernel of corn. It is so tiny, yet when a kernel of corn is planted in the ground. It can produce up to six ears of corn on each stalk. The corn variety that produces six is called the “six-shooter”. Think about it, this small kernel could grow into a stalk of corn that could produce enough ears of corn to feed a family. There are also uses for the corn stalks. They can be used for feeding livestock.

Corn or maize is a grain crop that was cultivated in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans. Today it is grown throughout the world, but about 60% is grown in the USA and mainly in the Midwest. It is the most important US crop. Almost 90% is used for feeding livestock. The other 10% is for industrial applications and for human consumption.* Yum. We are going to make Salsa today which contains corn. It is really good with tortilla chips. We will combine our ingredients and then season to taste.

Black Bean Salsa with Tortilla Chips

Ingredients:

2 cans drained and rinsed black beans	2 cans diced tomatoes
2 cans drained corn	1 bunch chopped green onions
2 springs chopped cilantro	1 packet Italian dressing
2 packs taco seasoning	1 tsp. chili powder
Garlic powder to taste (or fresh garlic, crushed)	

Serve with Tortilla Chips

Recipe submitted by Sharon Durham

Quest Connection

In the parable of the Sower we are told to hear the word and understand it. We are to produce a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Think of the tiny kernel of corn. It produces so much more than what is planted in the ground. We want to produce a lot, too. What we are producing is much more important than corn. We need to be planting the word of the Kingdom. Just like Christ, we should be getting the word out that God’s Kingdom is coming. We need to use our lives to spread the Kingdom message to others. We want others to hear that they can be a part of God’s Kingdom, if they follow Him. We can talk to our friends and families, we can donate to organizations that spread the word, we can donate to missions, we can work on our church web page, we can give away Bibles to those who do not have one . . . What are some ways that you personally could do

Close

Let’s review our Key Quest Verse. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13:23

*Corn facts from Webster’s Family Encyclopedia, Revised Edition

Go!



Seed Art

Arts and Crafts

Materials: Shoe box (or other small boxes), white glue, cheap paintbrushes to spread glue, pen or pencil, seeds (bird, squash, melons, fruit, rice, etc.) Bird seed has a mixture of seeds or you can buy very inexpensive bulk seeds from a feed and seed store—ask gardeners from your church for leftover seeds. We used pumpkin for a cross design and then filled in the backgrounds with smaller seeds including turnip. (Small seeds work well for background and fill in work with larger seeds used as the outline in the main design.) Use baking trays (or anything handy) to catch seeds as you work.

This craft can be made for each person or one box for the class. If you decide to have each student make a box you can use small pencil boxes. At home, we spray painted our box before adding the seeds to give it a finished look.

Quest Connection

We are going to make a seed mosaic to remind us of the Sower and the Seeds. This is a piece of art that we will create with seeds.

Procedure: Sketch out a design of a cross or fish on the box. (A cross can be made easily with a ruler.) Use a line of glue over the outline of your main design. Use large seeds like pumpkin or sunflower to create the outline of your design by placing the seeds in the bead of glue. Then spread white glue in one section at a time and press the seeds into the glue on the rest of the box. A lot of glue spread evenly works best. When you are finished, let the glue dry completely before moving the box.

Go!**Seed Art continued****Close**

Each tiny seed adds to the design of our box. In the same way, each of us is important to God. As Christians, we are given the privilege of doing God’s work on earth. The parable of the Sower and the Seeds reminds us that we will encounter obstacles in living a Christian life, but if we follow God’s word we will be fruitful. But what kind of crop are we producing? Luke 8:15 says, “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” We should keep doing what God tells us to do in the Bible—that is persevering. We will encounter obstacles like the seeds in our story, but if we follow God the right kind of crop will be produced. Like the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These characteristics should be shown in the way we live our life, but do we see these characteristics in our actions each day? We also want to remember that because of the way we live our lives today, someday Christ will reward each of us when He comes to establish the Kingdom. Jesus said in Revelation 3:21, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne”. This week we want to focus on positive changes in our attitudes and ask God for His Spirit, His power that can change our lives.

Go!



Seeking Good Soil

GAME

Materials: Blackboard, chalk and Seeking Good Soil Worksheet (Before class cut slips of paper from a copy of the worksheet.)

Procedure: Each person in your in class will receive a slip except two students that will be “seeds”.) Try to give an even number of birds, weeds and good soil slips.

Choose two students to be the “seeds”. Tell the other players that you are going to pass out slips of paper with their identities on them. Say, **Look at your slips, but do not let any other player see who you are.** Pass out all the slips of paper to the other players. **You must not make any sounds or gestures. You are a bad guy if you are a bird or a weed. You are a good guy if you are good soil. Our two seeds will play against each other for points. They will choose one player at a time. If they choose a weed or bird they receive -3 points, if they choose someone that is good soil they will receive + 5 points. The winner is the seed with the highest score after choosing the last player. Have the seeds choose one player at a time, alternating until all players have been chosen. Keep the score on a blackboard where the students see the players’ points.**

If you have time, collect the slips and choose two more players to be seeds.

Quest Connection

In this game it was difficult to know who to choose. Thankfully in life we can base our decisions and actions on the Bible to make the right choices. We can see from the scripture what God wants us to do. He loves us and gives us rules to live by so we have a better life.

Christ warns us of some obstacles that we may face in our Christian life. This week open your heart to God and Christ. Look at this parable of the Sower in Matthew chapter 13 and see if there are things in your life that are keeping you from doing good and producing good fruit for God. Ask Him to help you get rid of the things that keep you from being the best Christian that you can be.

Close

Let’s review our Key Quest Verse:

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13:23

Go!

Get The Message!

COMPUTER

Visit this website to use a telegraph key for Morse Code messages.

<http://www.zianet.com/sparks/coder.html>

Have the students listen as they send messages. Start them off by typing in Good News.

A . _ B _ _ C _ _ . D _ _ E .
 F _ _ . G _ _ . H _ _ . I _ _ J _ _ _
 K _ _ L _ _ . M _ _ N _ _ O _ _ _
 P _ _ . Q _ _ . R _ _ . S _ _ T _ _
 U _ _ V _ _ W _ _ X _ _ Y _ _ _
 Z _ _ .

Morse Code is symbolized with a dot for a short tap
 or a dash for a long tap.

Quest Connection

We are always receiving and sending messages. Sometimes we may not even realize that these messages are all around us. For instance, think about a television commercial. The message is, you need this product. They show a completely miserable person, then they receive the product being sold. Suddenly they are happy, smiling, content. A new Playstation game, acne medication or teeth whitener completely changes the person's life and makes them totally happy. Of course, most of these messages are not true. We can trust the messages that Christ gave us in the Bible because they are completely true. The things that Christ taught and the way that He lived His life sends a clear message to us each time we read the Bible.

What message are we sending to others? Do our friends and family see us living a Christian life? Think about the message you are sending by the way you dress. Do you dress modestly? Think about the things that you say. Do you show respect to God or do you misuse His name? We are sending messages with our lives and we want to make them positive messages. Why is it important to get our message of Christ to others? Everyone needs to know Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:19 tells us *that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* We are messengers letting others know that they can be reconciled (being brought together) with God. We know that the only penalty that can be paid for sin is death (Romans 6:23), but this verse tells us that through Christ men's sins will not be counted against us. What a wonderful message! Everyone needs to know that they have the opportunity to have eternal life if they accept Christ.

Close

Father,

Help us to realize that our actions and our words are sending messages to all those around us. Help us send a message that shows them a person who loves You and others. Be with us each day and please give us your Spirit to help us serve You. We thank you for all things. We thank You for eternal life. In Jesus name, Amen.

Go!



Christian Living

Herbs from the Heart-Sowing Seeds of Kindness

This activity will give the students an opportunity to give a gift to someone who is a shut-in or who may not be able to attend church services. This activity will encourage students to focus on others with caring and concern.

Materials: Option #1. Worksheet “Mint Tea Recipe Cards”, pots, potting soil, mint plants or mint seeds, ribbon

Option #2. Tea cups, boxes of herbal teas, greeting cards

Quest Connection

Christ showed concern for the crowds that followed Him. He taught, fed, granted forgiveness and healed those who came to Him. We want to be like Christ and show love and concern for others especially those who may be less fortunate. We want to make sure that we consider those members of our church or community who may have physical disabilities or are unable to attend church services because of illness. We are going to have the opportunity to give a gift to (_____). Share with the students a few of those who may not be able to attend church because of illness or name some of the shut-ins from your church. This activity can be as elaborate or easy as you want to make it. The important part is to allow the students to reach out to someone who may need some encouragement.

You have two options.

Procedure for #1. Have students plant mint plants in inexpensive pots *or* you can also grow the mint from seeds in a sunny window with regular watering. As the mint grows, plan a trip to deliver your potted gifts. Tie ribbon on the pots and place the Mint Tea Recipe cards on each. Give them away to some of the shut-ins that you are aware of from church or those who are recovering from illness. Giving this gift of a herb pot can brighten their home. Mint also has a pleasant smell and makes a great tea. Copy and cut the Mint tea recipe cards.

Procedure for #2. Purchase cups (we found beautiful inexpensive tea cups at the thrift store for .25) and some herbal tea from the grocery store. Send a card with a greeting and the signatures of everyone from your class.

Plan a trip with your students to give your gifts. It is great to enable your students to experience the feeling of making someone’s day a little better. Make sure you call ahead and that the person will be home.

Teacher’s Note: When we did this a couple of the students did not want to go. One girl

said that she did not like to talk with elderly people because she met a lady once and that lady died soon after that. So you may want to explain that this is not about us, but about helping someone else. So we all went. We even sang and talked with each recipient of our small gifts. The youth realized that this was about the people we were cheering up and it changed their attitudes. By the time we got back to the church, most of the youth in my class wanted to go again. Even the girl that did not originally want to go was glad that she had this experience. They realized how they made another person's day better.

Close

This activity contains a double blessing. When we sow seeds of kindness we feel good. It makes us feel better to know that we have brightened someone's day. There are so many people around us that we can reach out to. There are so many things to do for God before the return of Christ someday. Let's take some time this week to think about those who might need some encouragement. Where can you sow seeds of kindness? To whom will you show kindness?

Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Here are some verses for thought:

1 Peter 1:22 "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."



Go!



Seed Relay

GAME

Materials: Several Sunflower or pumpkin Seeds, 2 plastic spoons, two containers

Procedure: Have students count off by two and divide into two teams. The number on each team should match, play with the students if there is an odd number. Have the students form two lines parallel to each other. Between the two teams place something to hold the two containers (these are where the teams will deposit their seeds). Place the seeds in two piles on a table at least 12 feet away from the two teams. Give one player on each team a plastic spoon.

When I say go, run to the pile of seeds in front of your team. Pick up as many seeds as you can with your plastic spoon. Use only the spoon held in one of your hands to pick up the seeds. You can not use your other hand or fingers to place the seeds on the spoon. Race back to your team’s container and place the seeds in the container then pass the spoon to the next player. Try not to spill seeds along the way. If all your seeds fall along the way, then you must return the empty spoon to the next player. Repeat until everyone has gone. The team which finishes first gets a 25 seed bonus (add an additional 25 seeds to the number in their container). The team with the most seeds wins.

Quest Connection

It takes some effort to get the seeds to the goal. When we are trying to produce good fruit for God, it also takes effort. The good fruit that we want to produce will result from living a life for God. When we put Him first, He directs us and gives us opportunities to serve Him and reach others.

The parable of the Sower and the other parables in Matthew 13 give us some wonderful information about how great the Kingdom will be. In only one chapter of Matthew, we see that Christ uses seven parables to stress the greatness of the Kingdom of God.

Let me read a verse for you from Matthew 6:33. It says, “But seek first His Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

When we were playing the game you knew what the goals were. You wanted to make it to the container with the seed. In the same way, we want to remember our goals in life. One of those is to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. We want to be righteous which is doing what is right in God’s sight and we want to be a part of that Kingdom some day.

To reach that goal is worth every bit of effort that we give!

Close

We can’t wait to reach our goal of being with God someday in His Kingdom. It will be so wonderful! We also want to make sure that others hear about the invitation to be a part of God’s Kingdom. Just like Christ did, we want to share that incredible message with others.

Go!**Apple A Day****FOOD/VIDEO**

Materials: Washed apples, knife, napkins, a Christian Video

All of us are probably familiar with the story of Johnny Appleseed. As children you probably read a book or had a lesson about him during school. His real name was John Chapman (1774?-1845). He was an American pioneer, born in Massachusetts. In the early 1800s, Johnny traveled westward planting apple seeds he had collected from cider presses in Pennsylvania. He spent his life planting and tending nurseries of apple seedlings over hundreds of square kilometers in what are now the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

Much of what is known about Johnny is mixed with legend. He apparently traveled barefoot, wearing shabby clothing and a tin pot as a hat. Johnny was deeply religious. He is known for having told children Bible stories as he traveled. He is celebrated in frontier legends as a symbol of westward-moving American civilization.

Quest Connection

John Chapman had no idea that years after his death that children would still be reading about him. He still brings joy to thousands of children's lives as they read about Johnny Appleseed. He made an impression on people. One that still lasts today.

The way we live today can impact those around us now and many more in the future. No one would have guessed that an apple tree planter would have made such a big impact on our country, but he did.

Think about your talents and abilities. You are special, created by God. You will have many choices of what talents you will develop, where you will work, and how you will serve God in His church. Use your gifts for Him and leave a Godly legacy.

We are told in the Bible that "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24

Close

Cut the apples and let the students enjoy them while you watch a Christian Video. The Jesus Video, Wow Music Videos, or a portion of a drama such as Joseph from the Bible Collection would be good choices.

The Kingdom Where? When? How?

The Sower spread the seeds of the word of the Kingdom. We are told that we should be spreading these seeds as well. Jesus said, "I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43) We know as Christians we want to do what Christ did. He preached the good news of the Kingdom of God. But what is the good news of the Kingdom of God? If someone asked me about the Kingdom, could I explain some things to them from the Bible? Would I know where to look? The Kingdom of God is mentioned in numerous places throughout the scriptures. Here are a few verses that you can use. Write them on an empty sheet of your Bible for reference. That way you will have some of them listed when you want to share the good news.

The Kingdom will last forever.

Daniel 2:44- "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those Kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

Daniel 7:27- "Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His Kingdom will be an everlasting Kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

God puts Christ as the ruler over the Kingdom.

Rev. 11:15- "The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The Kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever."

Luke 1:32-33- "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end."

Christ will reign from Israel over the earth.

Isaiah 2:2-4- "In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah 42:4 - "He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope."

The Kingdom (continued)

Psalm 72:7-8, 11 In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

Isaiah 11:9 - They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

God's people will be resurrected and will live in the Kingdom.

Revelation 20:6- "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years."

Daniel 7:18- "But the saints of the Most High will receive the Kingdom and will possess it forever--yes, for ever and ever."

Colossians 1:12- "Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of light."

The animals of the Kingdom.

Isaiah 11:6-8- "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child will put his hand into the viper's nest."

God wants to be with His people.

1 Corinthians 15:27-28- For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under Him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When He has done this, then the Son Himself will be made subject to Him who put everything under Him, so that God may be all in all.

Revelation 21:3-4- And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

There are many more verses that tell us about the Kingdom of God. It will be so wonderful, so incredible! God loved us so much to plan this for us.

TEACHER RESOURCE

Seeking Good Soil Game Worksheet
Slips for players

Bird	Bird
Weed	Weed
Good Soil	Good Soil

The Kingdom Parables of Matthew 13
Write an explanation for each parable presented in Matthew 13.

Parables	
<p>1. The Parable of the Sower Matthew 13:3-23</p>	<p>3. _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>2. The Parable of the weeds Matthew 13:24-30</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32</p>	<p>4. _____ _____</p>
<p>4. The Parable of the yeast Matthew 13:33</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>5. The Parable of the hidden treasure Matthew 13:44</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>6. The Parable of the pearl Matthew 13:45-46</p>	<p>5. _____ _____</p>
<p>7. The Parable of the net Matthew 13:47-50</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Meanings</p>	<p>6. _____ _____</p>
<p>1. _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>7. _____ _____</p>
<p>2. _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>Use back of sheet if you need more space.</p>

Mint Tea Recipe

**5 teaspoons sugar or honey
12-14 fresh mint leaves
1 cup water**

**Crush mint leaves
and place in water.
Bring water to a boil.
Pour over sugar. Let
steep for 5 minutes.
Strain tea into cup. Enjoy.**



**The Lord loves righteousness
and justice; the earth is full of
his unfailing love. Psalm 33:5**

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