

Grace Lutheran All Church VBS

“Sowing God’s Love”

The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-9



(adapted from Sparkhouse ReNew VBS)



¹Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." ⁹And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Mark 4: 1-9

Calendar and Content

Week 1 - Planting Seeds

- ♥ May 16 after worship –
 - Identifying seeds
 - Decorating compost buckets
- ♥ May 19 – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
 - Planting in the garden
- ♥ Journal activities pages 4 - 6

Week 2 – Taking Root

- ♥ May 23 after worship –
 - Identifying roots & rhizomes
 - Making seed paper cards for homebound
- ♥ May 26 – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
 - Root Painting – create texture paint, paint your own roots
 - Water in the garden
- ♥ Journal activities pages 7-9

Week 3 – Good Soil

- ♥ May 30 after worship –
 - Create & explore soil filter bottle:
 - Make seed ball surprises
 - Pick up seed cards & envelopes
- ♥ June 2 – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
 - Plant a Maple along 52nd Street
 - Embody Change sidewalk & wall chalk activity
- ♥ Journal activities pages 10-12



Week 1 - Planting Seeds

Reflection:

1. Why do people plant seeds?
2. If you were to own a working farm, what seeds would you grow and why?
3. During VBS we will talk about God's Love being like a seed. Seeds are all around us, and are unique in many ways, just as we are unique. We can spread God's love in our own families, neighborhood, and communities in our own special ways. We can plant the seeds of God's love close to home, or scatter them like the seeds that fly on the wind. Some will take root right away, and some may take time. How can you spread God's Love?

Activity - Eco Art

Gather natural supplies from your yard or park: Sticks & twigs, rocks, pinecones, leaves, pea pods, grass, vines, bark that has fallen off an old branch.

Create a temporary structure using these natural items. Don't use glue or string, or nails, this is meant to be temporary – blown over by wind or washed away by rain, or maybe the dried grass will be picked up by a bird for their nest. Some ideas for you: a wall, a nest, a sculpture, a flower chain, a chipmunk-sized table.

As you look at your structure, think about this: God plants seeds of love in people all around the world. It's for everyone. In creating something temporary susceptible to nature, we can delight in creation without taking it for ourselves. It's for everyone, just as God's love is for everyone.



Fun Fact -

In Genesis 1:28 God tells the humans to have “dominion” over the earth. A better translation for the Hebrew word behind “dominion” is “to care for” the earth.

Prayer:

Gardening God, We plant.

We grow.

We share with others.

***Help us to plant love, grow in love
and share love with others.***

Amen.

Week 2 - Taking Root

Reflection:

1. What do seeds need to take root?
2. What are your spiritual roots, what grounds you in your faith?
3. What are some examples of God's Love rooted in you?

In your family?

In your community?

4. When we discover that God's love is a seed in us, it connects us with something bigger than ourselves. God's love is a seed in us, and that seed connects us with all of creation all around the world. Sit outside (or look outside) with a friend or family member and name all of the works of art you see in God's creation.

Activity:

Create a keepsake of your spiritual roots that could be passed onto your children or grandchildren.

Your keepsake could include photos from baptisms and confirmations, family Bibles, favorite verses and other significant memories and mementos.

Or you could write a letter sharing what grounds you in your faith, describing your faith journey and how you came to believe what you believe about God.





Fun Fact –

*Is it more surprising that Spanish moss has no roots or that it's part of the pineapple family?
Both are true!*

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, your love takes root in me.

Thank you for the creation that nourishes me—plants and animals, water and land—and for all the people who love and care for me. They are my roots.

(say their names aloud).

For all these people and more, I thank you.

Amen.

Week 3 - Good Soil

Reflection

1. How do you help care for God's creation?

2. What challenges creation?

What challenges your faith?

Are challenges always bad?

3. Jesus told his disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another." How can caring for God's creation be an act of loving one another?

Activity - Embodying Change

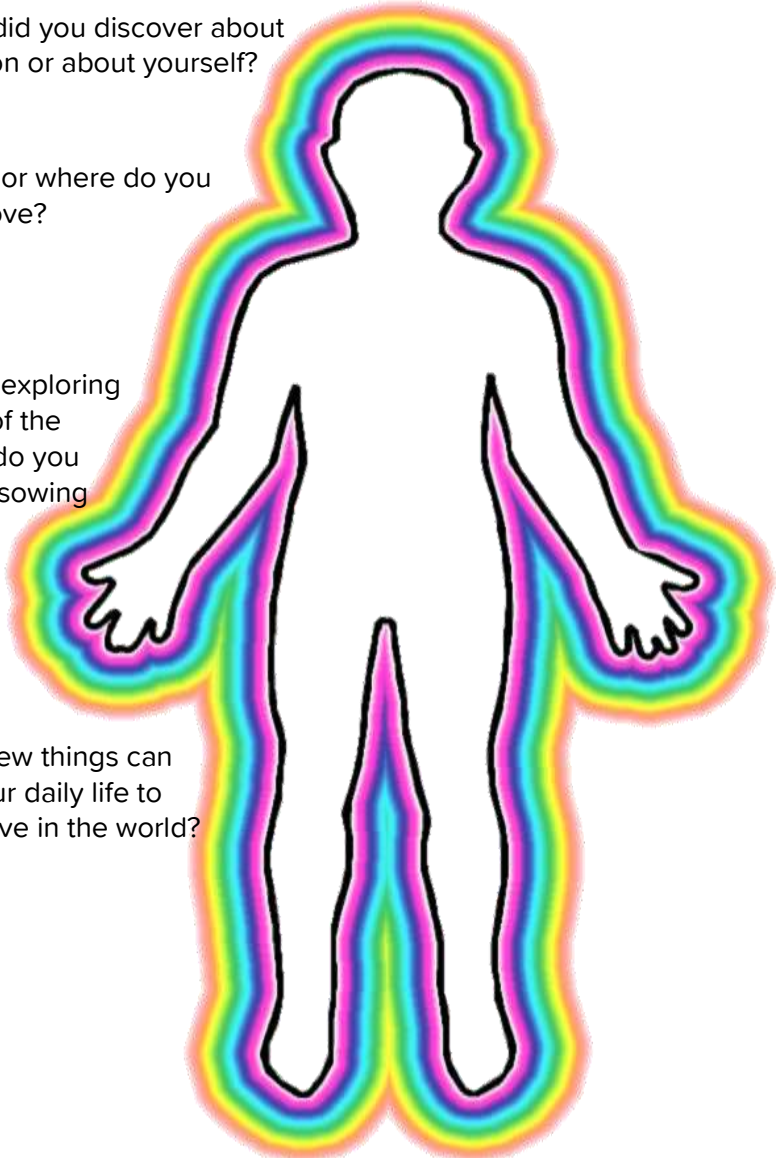
In or around the outline of a person provided, write the information about the week in each of the different body parts. Or, go outside and outline your body with sidewalk chalk and fill that form in.

Head: What did you discover about God's creation or about yourself?

Heart: When or where do you feel God's Love?

Hands: After exploring the Parable of the Sower, how do you see yourself sowing God's love?

Feet: What new things can you do in your daily life to sow God's love in the world?





Fun Fact –

Approximately 380 billion plastic bags are used in the United States every year. That's more than 1,200 bags per U.S. resident per year.

Prayer:

Thank you, God.

We know the love of Jesus helps us face challenges.

Each of us can find small ways to help.

Give us the courage and patience to share God's love in the middle of life's challenges.

Amen.