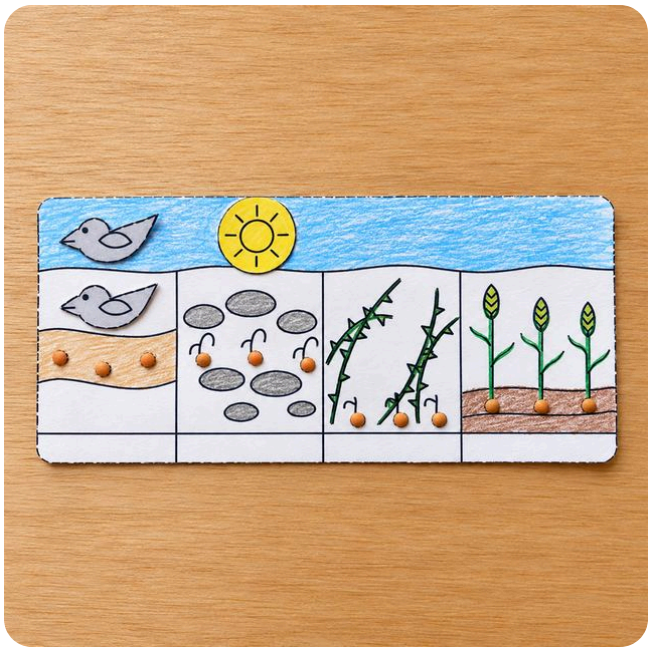
Preschool–Grade 5

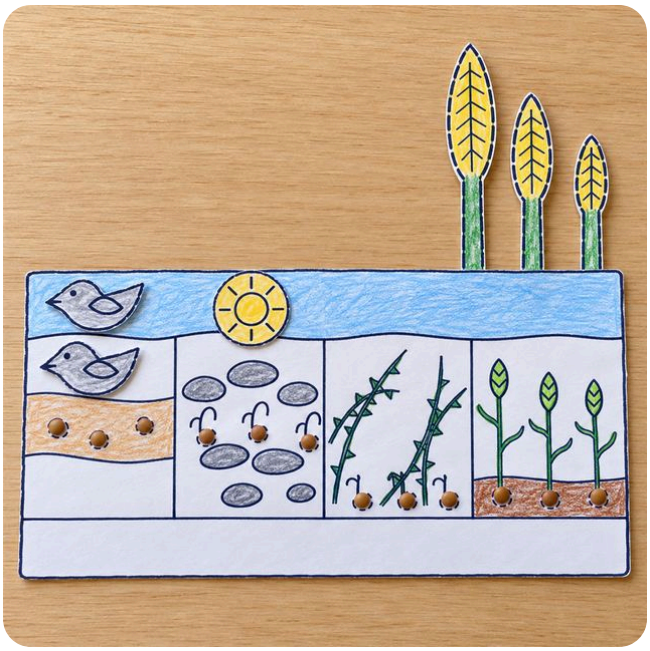
Parable of the Sower Craft

The four kinds of ground · Matthew 13:3–8; 13:18–23 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



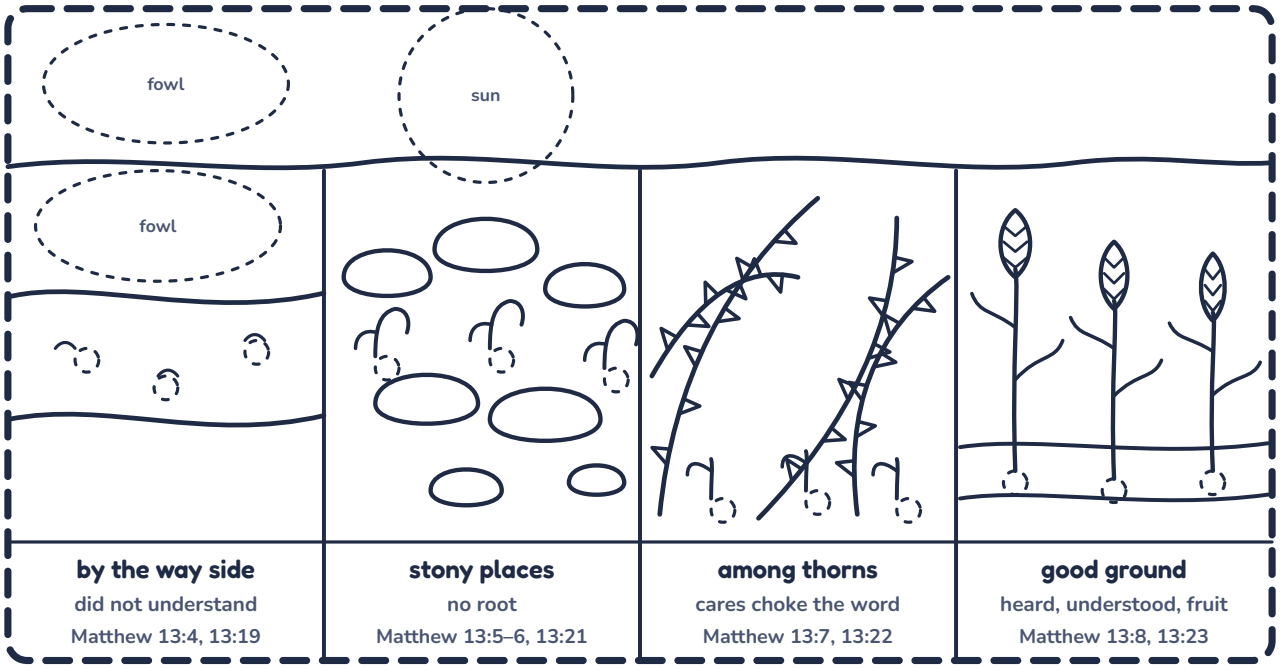
Harder

Both levels are a field card in four boxes, the four places where the sower's seed fell (Matthew 13:4–8): by the way side, with a tan path and two gray paper fowls; stony places, with gray stones and a yellow paper sun above; among thorns, with dark green thorns; and good ground, brown, with three green plants. Three real seeds are glued in each box. Medium (left): the field card. Harder (right): the same card with three tall plants standing up behind the good ground, for "some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold" (Matthew 13:8).

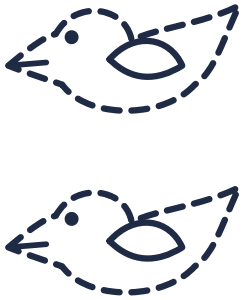
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



field card: sky light blue, path tan, stones gray, thorns dark green, good ground brown, plants green



2 fowls: gray



sun: yellow

But that on the good ground are they,
which in an honest and good heart,
having heard the word, keep it,
and bring forth fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back

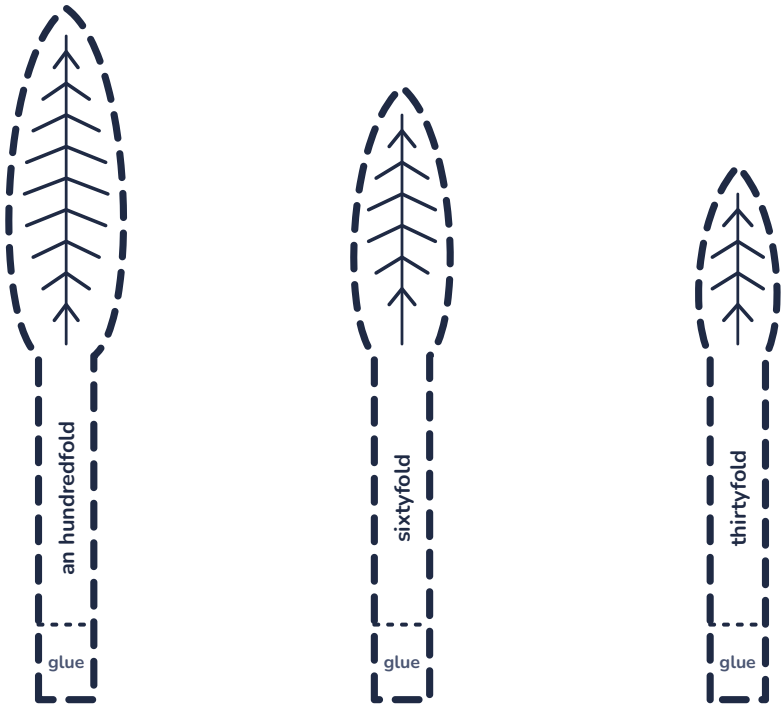
Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the field card, the 2 fowls, the sun and the verse strip. Glue one seed on each little dotted circle.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Three plants (harder level)



color the heads of grain yellow and the stems green, then cut on the dashed lines

How to add the three plants

1. Make the field card from page 2 first, with its fowls, sun and seeds.
2. Color the three heads of grain yellow and the stems green. Cut out the three plants on the dashed lines.
3. Turn the field card over. Put glue on the glue end of each plant, below the dotted line, and press it on the back of the card behind the good ground box, near the top edge, so the plants stand up above the top of the card: an hundredfold on the left, then sixtyfold, then thirtyfold.
4. Tell it: the seed on good ground "brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold" (Matthew 13:8). Fold means times as much.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/parable-of-the-sower-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock works best, so the seeds stay on), light blue, tan, gray, dark green, brown, green and yellow crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, white school glue and 12 dry lentils or split peas for each child. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: count out 12 seeds per child into small cups. For preschoolers, cut out the card and pieces ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color, glue on the fowls and the sun, and press the seeds onto the glue dots you put on the card. You glue the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, glue on the fowls and the sun, and glue on the seeds themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the field card like the medium level. Then add the three plants from page 3, standing up behind the good ground (Matthew 13:8). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** the sky light blue, the path tan, the stones gray, the thorns dark green, the good ground brown and its plants green. Color the 2 fowls gray and the sun yellow.
2. **Cut:** cut out the field card, the 2 fowls, the sun and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Fowls:** glue the 2 fowls on the dotted fowl spots in the first box, one on the grass and one in the sky (Matthew 13:4).
4. **Sun:** glue the sun on the dotted sun spot above the stony places (13:6).
5. **Seeds:** put a small dot of white glue on each little dotted circle and press one seed on it: 3 in each box, 12 in all. Let them dry flat.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** point to each box and tell what happened to the seed (13:4–8). Then read what Jesus said each ground means (13:19–23).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the first box. What happened to the seeds by the way side? *(The fowls came and devoured them up, Matthew 13:4)*
- Point to the sun. What happened to the seeds on stony places when the sun was up? *(They were scorched and withered away, because they had no root, 13:6)*
- What did the thorns do? *(They sprung up and choked the plants, 13:7)*
- How much fruit did the good ground bring forth? *(Some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold, 13:8)*
- What is the seed? *("The word of the kingdom," 13:19; "the word of God," Luke 8:11)*
- What did Jesus say the good ground means? *(Someone who hears the word and understands it, and bears fruit, Matthew 13:23)*
- Which kind of ground do you want your heart to be? How can you keep God's Word this week? *(Luke 8:15)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **parable** is a story Jesus told to teach a lesson; a **sower** is someone who plants seed by scattering it; the **way side** is the hard path beside the field; **fowls** are birds; **devoured** means ate up; **scorched** means burned; **withered** means dried up; **choked** means squeezed so it could not grow; **hundredfold** means a hundred times as much; **honest** means true and real; **keep it** means hold on to it and do it; **patience** means not giving up.
- **What the Bible says:** the four kinds of ground and their meanings are Jesus' own words (Matthew 13:4–8, 13:18–23). The Bible doesn't say what kind of seed it was or how many fowls came; the lentils, the two fowls and the heads of grain are the craft's simple pictures. Use any small dry seeds you have.
- **No person is drawn:** the template shows the field, not the sower. Jesus is not drawn.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and put the glue dots on the card for them. Lentils are small: watch little ones so seeds stay on the card, not in mouths or noses.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Parable of the Sower lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/parable-of-the-sower.

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