**Sunday School / Youth Division**

**Once upon a time**

**Matthew 13.1-9,18-23**

Jesus tells the crowds a parable of seed being sown onto different sorts of ground. Later, he explains it to the disciples as an illustration of how different people respond to hearing the word of the kingdom.

Story:So many people wanted to see Jesus and hear what he had to say, that he had to sit in a boat and teach the people standing on the shore. He told them many things through parables. ‘Listen!’ Jesus said. ‘A farmer went out to sow his seeds. As he scattered them, some of the seeds fell on the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell onto rocky ground. At first they grew quickly, but when the sun came out they got all burnt up because they had no roots in the shallow soil. Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up around them and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and they grew into thirty, sixty, a hundred times more wheat. Listen!’ Jesus said again. ‘If you’ve got ears, listen!’ Jesus explained the parable of the sower to the crowd: ‘What did I mean by the seed on the path being eaten up?’ he said. ‘Well, that’s like when the good things that God has planted in our hearts get snatched away by the devil. And the seed on the rocky path? That’s like when someone hears God’s word and loves it and is full of joy, but their enthusiasm disappears as soon as trouble comes their way. And the seed among thorns? Well, that’s like when someone hears God’s word but worry and greed take over. But the seed planted in good soil – ah, the seed in the good soil is like the person who hears God’s word, loves it and lives it, so it produces thirty, sixty, a hundred times more goodness in their lives.’ Glossary devil a personification of evil, also called Satan or ‘the evil one

Sunday School:

**Do**

**Play consequences  10 mins**   **W E**

Write a mini story together

**You will need:**a piece of paper and a pencil or pen for each child.

* Sit the group in a circle and ensure everyone has a piece of paper and pen or pencil. Ask the children to write the first line of their story at the top of the page and fold the paper over so that it cannot be seen.
* Ask the children to pass the folded paper on to the person on their left and all write the second line.
* Repeat the process until the stories have been finished. Then share some of the stories and enjoy!
* You might like to use the structure below for the story the first time you try this activity.  
  1. Write a man’s name.
  2. Met – write a lady’s name.
  3. Where they met.
  4. What he said to her.
  5. What she said to him.
  6. What happened next.

**Make a story catcher           15 mins E**

Explore another way of telling a story

**You will need:**[a square of plain paper (about 20cm square) and pens or pencils](https://www.cleverpatch.com.au/ideas/by-product-type/paper-and-card/chatterbox) for each child.

* Help the children fold their square paper into quarters then unfold. Ask them to fold each corner in towards the middle. Turn the paper over so that the folded edges are face down, and now fold each corner in towards the middle again.
* Write numbers 1 to 8 on each of the folded triangles, then lift the flaps and write the story in eight parts underneath each triangle shape.
* Flip it over and decorate the folded squares with colours. Place index fingers and thumbs into the squares on each side to fold the story catcher in with the coloured squares on top. (see below).
* Invite the children to play with one another and use their story catchers (using the structure below).

You could use the following eight sentences to make the story in your story catcher

* 1. Jesus liked telling stories.
  2. Lots of people came to listen to Jesus.
  3. Sometimes the crowds were huge!
  4. Once Jesus told a story about a sower.
  5. The sower sowed seed on different types of ground.
  6. Jesus hid messages in his stories.
  7. The parable of the sower is about how we respond to God.
  8. Parables help us to learn more about God.

*How to play*

* 1. Choose a colour. Spell out the colour as you move the story catcher  
     e.g. yellow = 6 moves.
  2. Choose a number from one of the triangles and move the story catcher that many times.
  3. Choose a number from another triangle and open up for that part of the story.

*Repeat*

**Pray**

**Fold a prayer      5 mins** **W E S**

Share a prayer story

**You will need:**a piece of paper and a pencil or pen for each child.

* Invite the group to sit in a circle. Give each child a piece of paper and a pen or pencil, then ask them to write a one-line prayer request at the top of the page (younger children could draw a picture). When they have done this, they should fold over the paper so that the prayer cannot be seen, then pass the paper to the person on their left.
* Each person should now have a different piece of paper on which they can write another one-line prayer and fold it over again.
* Encourage the group to pass the paper on several more times until five or six prayers are on the page. Then everyone should stop, unfold and read their prayer.

### ****Story stone Biscuits  10 mins E S****

### ****Make the Honey Biscuits recipe below , then write words from the story on them in coloured icing pens****

**Honey Biscuits Recipe**

This simple Honey Biscuits contain just five ingredients and are perfect for filling up your biscuit tin! Both regular and Thermomix instructions included.

Prep Time15 mins

Cook Time15 mins

Course: Biscuits

Cuisine: Modern

Keyword: Biscuits, Lunchbox Snacks, Thermomix

Servings: 36 Biscuits

**Ingredients**

* 200 grams butter softened
* 1 cup raw sugar
* 2 tbsp honey
* 1 egg yolk
* 2 cups self raising flour

**Instructions**

* Pre-heat your oven to 180 degrees and line two trays with baking paper.
* Place the softened butter and sugar into the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 3 - 4 minutes or until pale and creamy.
* Add the honey, egg yolk and self raising flour and mix until a dough forms.
* Use a dessert spoon to scoop up the mixture and shape into a small ball with your hands. Place onto the baking tray and repeat until all of the mixture has been used.
* Gently press on the top of the biscuits with the back of a fork to slightly flatten before placing into your pre-heated oven and baking for 12 - 15 minutes or until they begin to turn golden.
* Carefully remove from the oven and allow the biscuits to cool on the baking tray for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

**Notes**

You can make this dough in advance and store covered in your fridge and freezer, bring it back to room temperature before attempting to make balls.

The time it takes to cream your butter and sugar will be impacted by the temperature of your butter.

These biscuits are best stored in an airtight container in a cool and dark spot for up to one week.These Biscuits are also freezer friendly.

Youth Division:

**Warm up 1            10 mins WE**

Divide yourselves into pairs. Give one person in each pair some headphones with lively music to listen to. Print off some titles of Bible stories or fairy tales (or both, see below) for the person’s partner to read and mouth the words at their partner. The person wearing headphones should try and lip-read what story title they are being told. Swap over so that all have a turn to guess.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Story titles** Daniel and the lion’s den Cinderella Beauty and the beast Jonah and the whale Hansel and Gretel | Parable of the sower Pinocchio Snow white and the seven dwarfs Noah’s ark Jesus walks on water |

If doing this virtually, mute the young person who is reading the story title. You can message to individuals within the chat function, so you could share the titles they are to read from there, or ask them to choose their own ideas.

**Which stories stand out?            15 mins WEA**

Provide a few newspapers for your young person to look through. Find different types of articles: factual, sports reports, good news, bad news, etc. Ask the young people: which stories take up the most space? Do any stories stand out? What makes them stand out? Why?

**Snapshot            10 mins W**

Come up with a snapchat or a tweet (max. 280 characters) – a picture with a caption – that would get across the message of the parable of the sower. Discuss how today we only have quick snippets of things to share information with people:

* Do your young people think we spend less time reading/watching stories now?
* How easy is it to share information quickly?
* Do we get across everything that we need to?

**Stained-glass sower            10 mins E**

You will need: A glass Jar, some glass paint

Ask your young person to paint their own interpretation of a picture of the parable of the sower.

**Sing**

[Key to abbreviations for hymn book titles](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/worship-and-learning-support/music-support/abbreviations-for-hymn-and-song-books)

**Under 5s**  
The farmer comes to scatter the seed (RSJ 289)  
[The parables of Jesus](http://www.biblesongsandmore.com/songs/new-testament-songs/parables-of-jesus/sowersong/), Diana Dow  
  
**Under 12s**  
[Rocky wocky song](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-8veaBmsEI), Fischy Music on *It’s a noisy world*  
Tell me the stories of Jesus (KS 322)  
  
**12+**  
[Christ taught us](http://www.carolynshymns.com/christ_taught_us_of_a_farmer.html), Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
You are called to tell the story (CH4 680)