



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

Resource Centre

## Growing Plants and Words

# Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 10

Title: Growing Plants and Words  
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Theme: God's Word grows in cleared minds and hearts like seeds grow in good soil  
Text: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how people are like these pots of different kinds of fill like soil, stones, and sand.
- I wonder how God's Word is like this little plant.
- I wonder how we can take care of the soil in our hearts.
- I wonder how it feels when God's Word grows in our hearts.

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### Advanced preparation:

Fill one pot with potting soil, sand, and one with a third one full of rocks or marbles. Bring a pot with a plant already in it (a houseplant, or a dandelion, etc), and a small plant cutting needing to get planted. (If you don't have time to root a cutting, soaking a small plant in water and then gently removing the soil will provide a good substitute.)

### Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they come forward and engage them in some informal conversation about gardens and plants. Settle the children and invite them to become aware of God's nearness in this time of children's worship. As the children settle in, pray that God will speak through you to the children. Open your Bible to Matthew 13 and tell them that the ideas for today's children's time come from this passage. If it has not already been read aloud in the worship service, read Matthew 13:1-9, from either the NRSV or NIV version.

Then say: "I've been trying to figure out what this story that Jesus told means. Have you got any ideas?" Listen to and thank them for each answer. Then show them your idea with this object lesson:

**Object lesson:**

I want to figure out what Jesus meant with this story by acting it out with these pots, and plants, and soil types. I hope you will help me.

*Addressing the children, looking with them at the pots and plants in front of you, say, "I'm trying to decide which pot to use to plant this plant." Hold up the small plant.*

*"Where should I plant it?" Let the children volunteer some pros and cons about which pot they would put the little plant into. Work with them to draw out their reasons why they would choose the pot with potting soil, instead of another fill.*

Jesus' friends didn't understand what Jesus meant with his story about the sower sowing the seed on different kinds of soil, the Bible story we just heard. Jesus explained it to them like this. Seed needs to fall on good soil to be able to grow. God's Word is a bit like that. For the Bible's stories and lessons to grow in us they have to fall on listening ears and hearts. Whenever we hear God's Word, it is being planted in the soil of our hearts. But, when we're not listening, or are busy worrying, our ears are more like rocks or sand, than like good soil. Plants need soil to grow well.

**Prayer:**

Thank you, God, for giving us your word to guide us and teach us how to be friends with you. Help us keep the soil in our hearts healthy. Help us make choices that let your words grow big and strong in us. Amen.