

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 3: This week we listen to a parable that Jesus tells. We know that parables are stories—little mysteries for us to think about. We wonder what MORE Jesus means.

let anyone
with ears
listen

Choose the reflective questions
that suit your family:

Let's listen about that sower. He has so many seeds. He does not seem worried about losing some. He has enough and more than enough. We call that ABUNDANCE. He flings his seeds over all the ground. He gives all the ground a chance to grow more. He is so generous with his ABUNDANCE. He is so kind to the different ground. Who could this sower be?

Ages 3-6

Let's listen about those grain seeds. Each one holds the possibility for new life. Each can produce so many more new grain seeds—so much more possibility of life. What will the sower do with all this possibility? Will he fling them wide, too, giving more soil the chance to grow life? Will he grind the grain into flour and bake it into bread? How many hungry people will be filled by the grain produced by the good soil?

Ages 6-9

'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a 100-fold, some 60, some 30. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Matthew 13.3-9

Let's listen about the good soil. Black, heavy, moist. No stones, no weeds. Ready and waiting for the sower to rain down seeds. Can we think of the times when we feel like this soil? When we listen to Jesus' words and know that God will cause something good to grow in us?

Ages 9-12

Let's listen about the poor soil. Why does the sower do nothing to prepare the soil? He does not remove rocks and thorns. He does not shoo away the birds. Whose job is this? Soil cannot fix itself. If we know people who feel like the poor soil, dry and beaten down—who cannot pray—what is our role in preparing their soil?

teenagers

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

