

## Children's Routine – The Sower By Brian Hodge

This routine is based on the Bible story from the Gospels (the version I have used is from Mark 4).

### *Phase 1 - The drama*

Depending upon the number and ages of children, even before I start the story, I choose either 2 little and 4 large children (i.e. 2 of the larger ones can carry a small one)(seeds and birds), then 2 children(shallow soil), then either 2 boys and 2 girls or one of each(weeds). Finally 2 or 3 other children (good seed). Sit all the children on the floor.

You then tell the first part of the story - Explain Jesus on the hillside with the landscape around with which people would be familiar. Explain how the seed was sown.

Then alongside the first children "some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up." encourage the large children to pick up the little children and carry them back to their seats!!

Then with the second group of children read "Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. " Encourage the children to grow up from the floor stretch out their arms but then as the sun came out the plants wilted and died.

In the third group get each boy between the girls and read "Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain." Encourage them all to grow up together and then get the girls to throttle the boys (gently!).

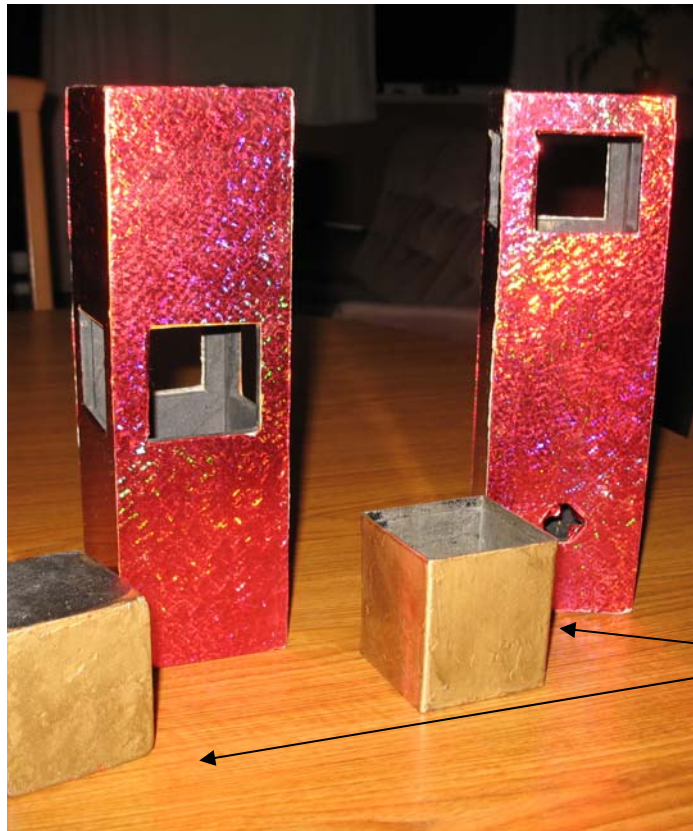
The final group just get the children to grow up stretch out their arms and finally uncurl their fingers reading " Still other "seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

The children enjoy the story and you need to keep the story light and the acting full of fun!!

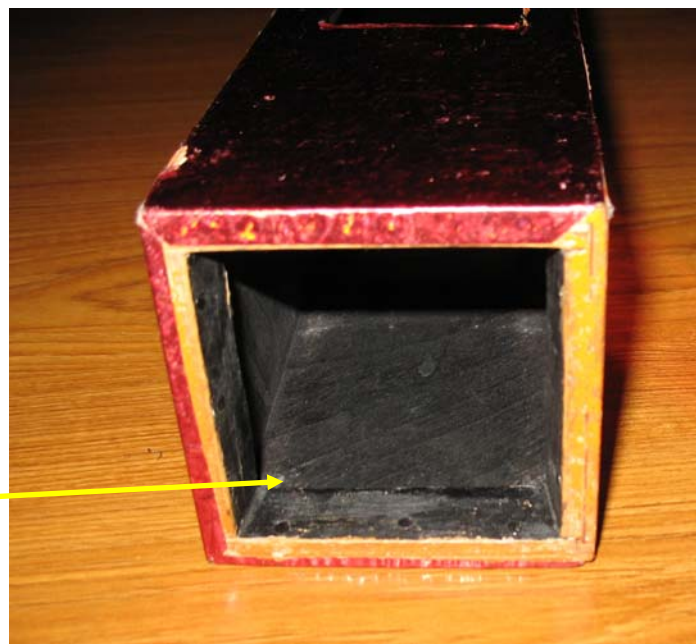
Then explain that although Jesus told parables so that people could think about what he was saying sometimes he spent time explaining to his disciples what he meant by the story.

- i) You now need a Block through Head (I have search UK dealers and there is an Indian Version available from World of Magic. <http://www.world-of-magic.co.uk/Block Thru Head by Uday Trick i25238.asp>

Going back to the explanation Jesus said the seed is the "word of God" and in the first example, the word never really is heard by the listener. This block is like the word of God. Here is an "in-tunnel" to sow the seed into the head to remember. Just in case, here is an "out-tunnel" in case the person is not listening. Carry on through the effect as in the pictures below.



One solid and one shell cube.



Note the lip to stop the shell as it goes into the tube.

End the effect that Jesus even cracked a joke when he said - "if you have ears to hear listen." - as Jesus knew, we all have ears!! When you are in school tomorrow sit with your finger in one ear like this. When our teacher asks you what you are doing say "I am making sure that when I am listening it doesn't go in one ear and out the other."

- ii) Then you need some form of wilting flower. You will see my version has three flowers and each can wilt independently.

[http://www.world-of-magic.co.uk/Drooping\\_Flower\\_Uday\\_i11639.asp](http://www.world-of-magic.co.uk/Drooping_Flower_Uday_i11639.asp) £10.43

[http://www.merlinswakefield.com/shop?page=shop.product\\_details&flypage=flypage-ask.tpl&product\\_id=727&category\\_id=9&keyword=flower](http://www.merlinswakefield.com/shop?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage-ask.tpl&product_id=727&category_id=9&keyword=flower) £6

Clearly Jesus said "like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy." But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away."

To have strong roots plants need constant feeding with water and nutrients. If we do not continue to seek to know more about God's word then we start to wilt.



- iii) For the third part of the story when Jesus said "still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;" but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things

come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful." I have used two approaches at different times also depending on how much time I have.

- a. The first is very simple and uses a reel of cotton. Tie 1 strand around the thumbs of a volunteer ask them to break the cotton. Tie 3 strands around thumbs - they can still break but it is harder. Finally tie 10 or more strands around the thumbs and the youngster will find it too difficult to break free. That is like hearing the word but letting other other things become more important in your lives and like with sin, it is hard to escape.
  - b. My other approach is to use a two rope escape. The is based on hearing the word but finding other things take you away from feeding your growth as a Christian. First I get up two friends who want to pull on your time. Tie up the child. Also put on a dressing gown to show how on Sunday's it is often to easy to stay in bed. (this makes the trick more angle proof). You can add photos with holes on the ropes. Finally tie **one rope** again giving each friend 2 ropes. On the count of 3 the friends pull and the youngster breaks free.
- iv) Finally a blooming flower is needed to show what happens when we listen to the word properly and act on it in our lives. We blossom - just like this flower. I make it take some time and often use two flowers looking at the wrong one as the other starts to bloom.

[Crazy Blooming Flower](#) £6.49 - [MagicNevin](#)

[8 Flower Blooming Boquet](#) £18.76 - [World Of Magic](#)





## Mark 4

### The Parable of the Sower

<sup>1</sup> Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup> "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables <sup>12</sup> so that,

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,  
and ever hearing but never understanding;  
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>14</sup> The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup> Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. <sup>16</sup> Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>18</sup> Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup> but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."