

I looked then, after Christian, to see him go up the hill called Difficulty. Now, about the midway to the top of the hill was a pleasant harbour made by the Lord of the hill for the refreshing of weary travellers and when Christian got there he sat down to rest and fell into a fast sleep, which detained him in that place until it was almost night and in his sleep his roll fell out of his hand. Now, there came one to him, and awaked him, saying, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." And with that Christian suddenly started up. Now, when he was got up to the top of the hill, there came two men running to meet him; the name of the one was Timorous, and of the other Mistrust; to whom Christian said, Sirs, what's the matter? You run the wrong way. Mistrust said, "Just before us lie a couple of lions in the way and they would pull us in pieces." Mistrust and Timorous ran down the hill, and Christian went on his way. But, thinking again of what he heard from the men, he felt for his roll that he might read therein and be comforted; but he felt and found it not. Falling down upon his knees, he asked God's forgiveness and then went back to look for his roll, eventually finding it where he had slept.

Returning to the top of the hill called Difficulty he entered into a very narrow passage and espied two lions in the way. Then he was afraid and thought to go back; but the porter at the lodge, whose name is Watchful, cried unto him, saying, "Fear not the lions for they are chained and are placed there for trial of faith. Keep in the midst of the path and no hurt shall come unto thee." Then he went on, trembling for fear of the lions; he heard them roar but they did him no harm.

The porter said to Christian, "This house was built by the Lord of the hill, and He built it for the relief and security of pilgrims. What is your name?" "My name is now Christian, but my name at the first was Graceless; I came of the race of Japheth, whom God will persuade to dwell in the tents of Shem." The Porter asked why Christian was so late and Christian explained about sleeping and losing his roll.

Then Watchful, rang a bell, at the sound of which came out at the door a beautiful girl named Discretion. She asked Christian from where he was, and whither he was going; and he told her. She asked him also how he got into the way. Then she asked him what he had seen and he told her. She called out Prudence, Piety, and Charity, who, after a little more talk with him, had him come into the family.

They gave him something to drink and talked together until supper was ready. They asked why he had become a pilgrim and talked of everything he had seen on his way including the things shown him by Interpreter and the people he had met in the way.

Now I saw in my dream, that thus they sat talking together until supper was ready. Then their talk at the table was about the Lord of the hill; especially about what He had done and wherefore He did what He did, and why He had builded that house. And by what they said, I perceived that He had been a great warrior and had fought with and slain 'him that had the power of death,' but not without great danger to Himself; and that they heard Him say and affirm that He would not dwell in the mountain of Zion alone.

Thus they talked together till late at night; and after they had committed themselves to their Lord for protection, they betook themselves to rest: the Pilgrim they laid in a large upper chamber whose window opened toward the sun-rising; the name of the chamber was Peace and he slept till break of day when he awoke and sang.

Seed Lessons

Sabbath

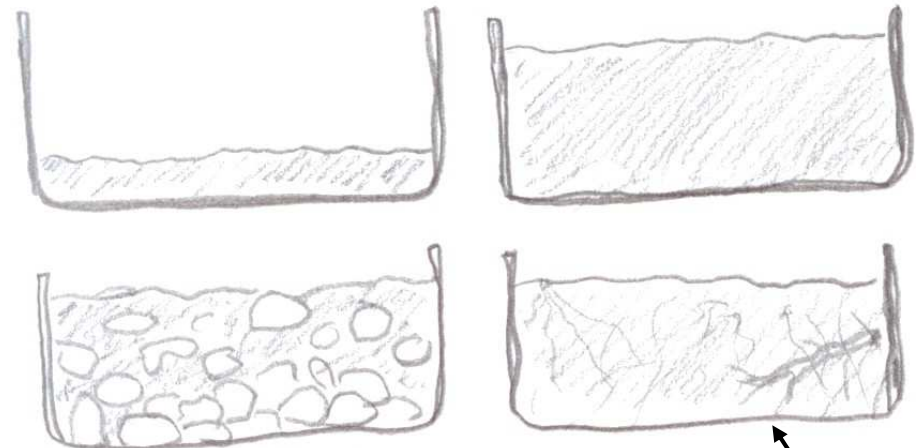
Most of Jesus' teaching was done through stories, object lessons and parables - stories with hidden meanings. This week we will look at several parables and object lessons based on seeds and plants.

Have you ever grown a garden?

What did you grow? _____

What do plants need to grow well? _____

These four people are starting small gardens in containers.



Who do you think will grow the best plants?
Who do you think will have the best garden?

Weeds

Sunday

One day Jesus healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and couldn't speak. When the people saw that the man could now see and talk they were amazed and asked "Is Jesus the Messiah?" But the Pharisees said, "The demons obey Him because He comes from Satan."

Jesus said, "Satan will not fight himself - a kingdom with civil war will not last. Only a stronger man can take something from a strong man. A tree can be identified by its fruit; a good heart says good things and an evil heart says evil things and on the day of judgement you will have to explain every word you have spoken."

The Pharisees asked Jesus for miracle but Jesus refused; He compared Himself to Jonah who was in the fish for three days; Jesus would be dead three days but they still wouldn't believe. It's not like they hadn't seen or heard about all the other miracles Jesus was performing, they just wanted to trap him or cause trouble.

As Jesus was talking, someone came and told Him that His mother and brothers were waiting outside. Jesus said, "Anyone who does the will of My Father in heaven is my family, my brother, sister and mother!"

Later that same day, Jesus sat beside the lake; when a large crowd gathered, He stepped into a boat and talked to the people. This is the parable Jesus told - a parable is a story that teachers about something else.

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath and the birds ate them.

Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. They sprouted quickly but the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died.

Other seeds fell among thorns and weeds that grew up and choked out the tender plants.

Still other seeds fell on good soil, and they produced a large crop!"

Matthew 13:1-8_{NLT}



Friday

Read the next part of Pilgrims Progress from the back page.

Christian was going well, even up the hill of Difficulty, but then when he stopped for a brief rest what happened?

Remember that everything in Pilgrims Progress represents something that can happen to us spiritually.

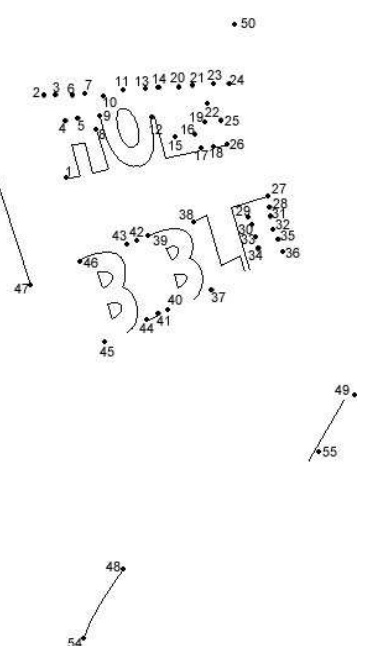
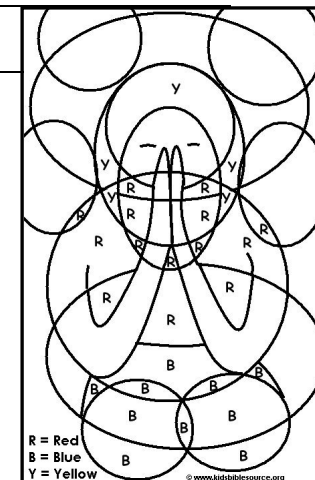
Do you remember the parable of the Ten bridesmaids in Matthew 25:1-13? The bridesmaids fell asleep and ran low on oil which represents the Holy Spirit. Christian sleeps and loses his roll which could represent his personal relationship with God. This is like a person who has forgotten to spend time with God; their relationship is not as good as it was before. The book "40 Days - Prayers and Devotions to prepare for the Second Coming" by Dennis Smith says, that as Christians we often pray during difficulties or special times but when things are easy, we forget to pray.

Because he slept and lost his roll, Christian came to the lions in the dark and was very afraid. When our personal relationship with God is not as good as it should be, things will seem worse than they really are and we will be more afraid.

Write Romans 8:31 in your own words.

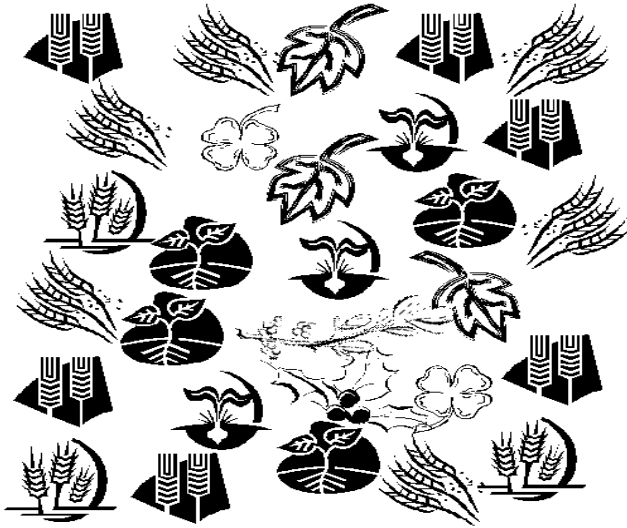
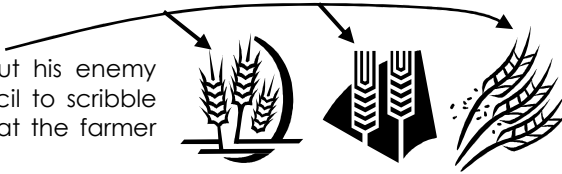
What can we do to stay spiritually awake?

Solve the puzzles for some ideas.



Thursday

The farmer is growing wheat, but his enemy planted weeds. Use a red pencil to scribble out the weeds; and find out what the farmer did with them.



Read Matthew
13:36-42 and
Matthew 13:47-49

In each of these two
parables, what
represents the
following things?

Parable of weeds Matthew 13:36-42	Thing it represents	Parable of fish Matthew 13:47-49
	The world	The lake
	People who love God	
	People who don't love God	
	End of the world	
	Angels	

Some people think that everyone will go to heaven, no matter what, but this is not true. What does 1 John 1:9 say that we have to do?

Someone who has never confessed their sins, who doesn't care about others and only cares about pleasing themselves, someone who does not want Jesus to save them would not be happy in heaven. Just like a wild animal who wants to be free and will be unhappy in a cage. Heaven would be like prison to these people.

Monday

The disciples asked Jesus what the parable of the farmer sowing seeds meant and this is what He said.

"The seeds that fell on the footpath are like people who hear Gods message but don't really listen or understand it. The evil one comes and snatches away the seed.

The seeds on the rocky ground are like those who hear and are happy. But they give up as soon as they have to do something difficult.

The seeds that fell among the thorns or weeds are like those who hear, but forget because of the worries of this life, or they are too busy trying to get rich.

The seeds that fell on good soil are like those who hear and understand God's word; they produce lots of good fruit by their actions."

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is like a seed. The farmer plants it; he does not know how it sprouts, grows and produces grain - all the farmer has to do is harvest it. It is also like a mustard seed - the smallest of seeds which becomes a very large plant tall enough that birds can nest in it. He also said it is like yeast - a small amount of yeast can make a big difference in a loaf of bread.

The kingdom of heaven is as precious as treasure that a man discovers in a field. The man sells everything he owns to buy that field so he can have the treasure - it is like a pearl of great value that a merchant will do anything to own.

Here is another story Jesus told: "A farmer planted good seed in his field. But that night, his enemy came and planted weeds. The plants and the weeds began to grow.

Then the workers asked, "Should we pull out the weeds?"

The farmer said, "No, you'll hurt the good plants if you do, wait until the harvest and then we will sort out the weeds and burn them."

Jesus told the disciples that the field is this world. The good plants are the people who belong to God, and the weeds are people who belong to the Satan. At the end of the world the people will be sorted just like the plants. Or you can compare it to fishing with a net which is brought to the shore before sorting the good fish from the bad.

Tuesday

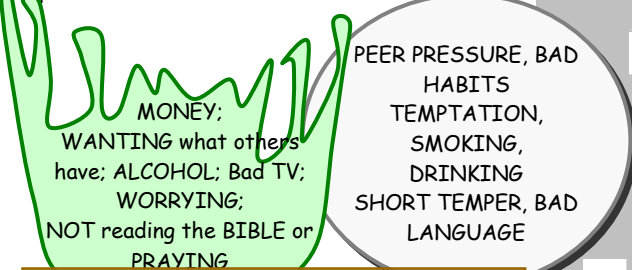
1. The seed that falls on the ____ is like the gospel with someone who doesn't listen or understand; they quickly forget.
2. The ____ ground is like someone who is excited about the gospel but soon gives up.
3. The seeds among the ____ is like the gospel in someone who becomes too busy; they eventually go their own way.
4. The seed on the ____ ground is like someone who understands and their life is changed.

Remember in Pilgrims Progress that Obstinate tried to stop Christian; that Pliable decided to go with Christian for a while, but gave up when they fell in the Slew of Despond. Remember the man in the iron cage at the Interpreters house? This man was once a church member but he became too busy to pray. Put a number next to each name below to show what type of ground they are like from Jesus parable. The answers are at the bottom

☐ Pliable ☐ Obstinate ☐ Christian ☐ Man in cage

Fit the missing and underlined words into the empty grid.

Here are some things that the stones and weeds can represent. Find the words in capitals in the find-a-word.



W A N T I N G C L E A N D U P
Y O P E E R P R E S S U R E U
N R L M O N E Y I F H E I C N
O L E P A N U P Y O O U N R O
T L I T V F E C L E R A K N T
B U B A D H A B B I T S I P P
I Y O T U R L I A F T E N C R
B L E I A N U P L Y E O G U A
L S M O K I N G C R M L I F Y
E E C N L E A N O U P P Y O I
U R L I F E C L H E E A N U N
P Y O U R L I W O R R Y I N G
F E C L E A N U L P Y O U R L

1. Obstinate 2. Pliable 3. Christian 4. Man in cage

Wednesday

Jesus used several object lessons to teach about the kingdom of heaven or, as Mark calls it, the kingdom of God.

What is it compared to in Matthew 13:31 and Mark 4:30-31?

_____ seed (3 down)

What is it compared to in Matthew 13:33? _____ (4 across)

What is it compared to in Mark 4:26-27? _____ which sprouts (7a)

When someone says "kingdom of heaven" or "kingdom of God" do you think about Heaven as in where we will go when Jesus returns?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What does Jesus say about this kingdom in Luke 17:20-21?

Can you see it?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Are we still waiting for it?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is it here now?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Where is it?

Jesus said it is here right now among us or in our midst.

What is this kingdom?

Read Romans 14:17

"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and _____ (6d) and _____ (2a) in the _____ (1d) _____ (5a)." NLT

God's kingdom is here on earth right now through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Like a seed sprouting, and yeast working, we cannot see the Holy Spirit but after a while we can see the results.

