

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Parable of the Sower

Read the Gospel Passage. Luke 8:5-15

Contextual Background:

-Jesus mentions in this parable that the “seed” is “The Word of God”. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is also called “Logos tou Theou / The Word of God”, because He spoke everything into being in the beginning, as seen in Genesis

-In this parable, the Word of God Jesus is talking about is Himself. Jesus, the Word of God, wants to be planted into our hearts, received into our souls, or our “spiritual soil” so that our relationship with Him can grow.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus describes a seed being planted in these four types of soils. The soils are our souls, our hearts. What does the seed represent? (MULTIPLE CHOICE)
 - a. Food
 - b. A nice story
 - c. Jesus, the Word of God
 - d. Our hobbies or habits

2. What were the 4 types of soil that Jesus talks about in His parable, and which one receives the seed the best? (MULTIPLE CHOICE)
 - a. A pathway, where people walked and birds ate
 - b. Rocky soil without much dirt
 - c. Soil full of weeds
 - d. Good soil, unhindered—this was the best soil

3. Three of the soils had obstacles that hindered the seed—the Word of God—from growing. What did some of those obstacles represent? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. The devil
 - b. Hardships
 - c. Temptations
 - d. Cares and pleasures of life

4. What kind of luck have you had with growing things? What goes into the success of growing something in the garden? (DISCUSSION)

5. Jesus mentions different places where the seed — The Word of God — falls and attempts to grow.
 - a. The “path” is where plants could not grow because they would be trampled under foot and eaten up by the birds. Jesus mentions that “the devil comes and takes the word from their hearts”.
 - i. What ways have you seen the devil trying to take away someone’s faith or relationship with Jesus? (DISCUSSION)
 - ii. What might be some ways we can protect ourselves from the devil? (DISCUSSION)
 - b. The rock represents shallow soil wherein the plant doesn’t form roots and gets dried up by the beating sun. Jesus mentions how it’s important for us to develop “deep roots” so that temptation and hardship don’t dry up our faith.
 - i. What are some hardships and temptations you’ve seen get in the way of someone’s depth of faith? (DISCUSSION)
 - ii. What might be some ways we can develop “deep roots” in Christ? (DISCUSSION)
 - c. The thorns “choked out” the growing seed/faith, not allowing the faith to fully mature and grow. Weeds often “compete” with plants in our garden and need to be uprooted.
 - i. Jesus mentions “cares, riches, and pleasures of life” as the weeds we might encounter. What are some other things that can compete with our time and attention with God, with a relationship in Jesus? (DISCUSSION)
6. Jesus tells us to cultivate “good soil” for our relationship with Him to properly grow.
 - a. What has been good “fertilizer” or nourishment, helping your grow in your faith with God? (DISCUSSION)
 - b. What other obstacles have gotten in the way of having faith or growing in your relationship with God? (DISCUSSION)
7. What is something we can do today, a new habit or practice that we could start trying to help see growth in our relationship with Christ?