***Jesus told this story*** to a large crowd of people who had traveled very far to hear Him speak.

"A farmer went out to his field to plant some seeds. Some of the seeds fell by the side of the road and were eaten by birds. Some of the seeds fell on rocky dirt but died as soon as they grew because they had no water. Some of the seeds fell among weeds but were crowded by the weeds and died as soon as they sprouted. But some of the seeds fell on good soil and grew and grew until the whole field was filled with an abundant crop of healthy plants."

The people asked Jesus what this story meant. He answered them.

"The seeds are like God's word. The birds, rocks, and weeds are like some people's hearts. Some people hear God's word but do not understand it because their hearts are busy with other things. But the good soil is like the hearts of good people. They hear God's word and believe it."

1. Review new words: sprouted, crop, abundant
2. What happened to the seeds that fell by the side of the road? On the rocky dirt? Among the weeds?
3. Why did they die? (Accept literal answers!)

4. What happened to the seeds that fell in the good soil?
5. Why did they live?
6. Who does Jesus want us to be like?

Jesus wants us to be like the good soil and to hear God's word with a good and faithful heart. If we do this, we will understand Him and His love will grow in our hearts.

Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, Luke 8:5-15 October 17, 2004
The Parable of the Sower Grade: K-2

1. What happened to the seeds that fell by the side of the road? Among the rocky dirt? Among the weeds? In the rich soil?
2. What do the seeds represent? (or what are they like?)
3. Why did they die?
4. What do the birds, rocky dirt, and weeds represent?
5. Who does the rich soil represent?
6. Why did the seeds that fell in the rich soil grow?
7.Who does Jesus want us to be like?

Jesus wants us to be like the rich soil. If our hearts are good, and we are faithful, then we too will understand God's word when we hear it. God's word and His love will grow in our hearts. Then we can share it with others, and just as the sower's crops grew, the good news of Jesus Christ will be spread.

***Jesus told this story to a great multitude who had journeyed far to hear Him.***

"A sower went out to the field to sow his seeds. Some seeds fell by the side of the road and were trampled and eaten by birds. Some seeds fell on rocky dirt, sprouted, but died quickly because the roots had no water. Some seeds fell among weeds, and grew up with the weeds, and were crowded and choked by them. But others fell on rich soil, sprang up and continued to grow and yield a huge crop."

The people wondered what Jesus meant by this story. He answered them saying:

"The seed is like God's word. The birds, the rocky dirt, and the weeds are like some people's hearts. Those by the side of the road hear God's word, but the devil comes quickly and snatches it away so they won't have faith and be saved. Those in the rocky dirt hear God's word and believe for awhile, but eventually give into temptation. Those that fell among the weeds were so concerned with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life that they were choked by them. But the ones that fell on the rich soil and heard the word of God with a good heart understood His word, kept His word, and spread it."

## *The Lord spoke this parable:*

"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some feel among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for other they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

1. Do you think it is easy to grow a plant or difficult to grow a plant? Why do you say that?
2. If someone tells me my heart is like a hard rock what does he mean? If someone tells you your heart is like soft fertile soil what does she mean?
3. At school your teacher tries to plant seeds of information in you like the sower in this gospel. How can you make your mind fertile soil for that seed?
4. If God is our teacher, sowing seeds of his message in us, how can we make our minds and souls fertile soil for his teachings?
5. Listen carefully to the prayer the priest says after the Epistle reading and before the Gospel during church tomorrow. What does the priest ask God to do for us there
6. What can you do this week to be a good gardener of your heart?

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1. What do you think Jesus meant when he said: "Let anyone with ears to hear listen?" Is he referring to actual ears? What do you think he is referring to? How can a person hear something but not listen to it? What does that mean?
2. Why is fertile soil a good place for a plant to grow? Why is a rock a bad place for a plant to grow? What is your heart like if I say it is soft like fertile soil?
3. What makes a soft heart a good place for God's word to grow? What is my heart like if I say it is hard like a rock? What makes a hard heart a difficult place for God's word to grow? How might a hard heart cause me to hear God's word but not listen to it?
4. Listen carefully to the prayer the priest says after the Epistle reading and before the Gospel during the divine liturgy tomorrow. What does the priest ask God to do for us there?
5. What can you do this week to be a good gardener of your heart?

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1. What do you think Jesus meant when he said: "Let anyone with ears to hear listen?" Is he referring to actual ears? What do you think he is referring to? How can a person hear something but not listen to it? What does that mean?
2. Why would Jesus say: "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God but to others I speak in parables?" Do you think Jesus didn't want some people to understand his message? Why would he speak in parables to some people and then explain his meaning to others?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said: "I speak in parables, so that looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand?" How could some people listen to the parable and not understand it?
4. What does the parable tell us we have to do in order to hear, understand, and grow in the word of God?