

## Matthew 13

*The Parable of the Sower.*<sup>1\*</sup> On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea.<sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore.<sup>3\*</sup> And he spoke to them at length in parables,<sup>\*</sup> saying: “A sower went out to sow.<sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up.<sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep,<sup>6</sup> and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots.<sup>7</sup> Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it.<sup>8</sup> But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.<sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

*The Explanation of the Parable of the Sower.*<sup>18<sup>f</sup></sup> “Hear then the parable of the sower.<sup>19</sup> The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.<sup>20</sup> The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy.<sup>21</sup> But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.<sup>22</sup> The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.<sup>23</sup> But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

## **The Sower and the Seed:**

1. Jesus talks about four types of soil — hard and worn along the path, rocky, thorny, and good soil — for receiving the “seed” of God’s word. He explains what each soil is like in verses 19-23. What are some modern applications of this? What are examples of this kind of ‘soil’ that teens sometimes find themselves planted in?
2. Jesus says that the one whose soul is good soil, “hears the word and understands it” and “bears fruit with it.” What would it mean to be planted in ‘good soil’ in this day and age? How can you plant yourself in good soil? Do you hear and understand God’s word and try to bear fruit in acts of love toward God and others?
3. Jesus says that sometimes the word of God falls on thorny soil; the person receives it with joy but then the cares of the world and the lure of money choke the word. Why is money and power so alluring? Why do you think God is so concerned about this temptation?
4. Growing plants is something that many teens are unfamiliar with. To grow a strong, healthy plant you need to do many things to keep it healthy – good soil, fertilizer, water, bug care (pests, etc.), trimming in the fall, pruning, etc. Why is this appropriate for understanding the spiritual life? How is growing spiritually like growing a good, healthy plant? How can we neglect our spiritual life and what are ways we can aid our spiritual life to become a healthy son and daughter of God?