

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to learn a parable Jesus taught about the condition of our hearts and he used farming to do it. He talked about four different types of soil and what happens to a crop when the soil is bad. Back then, people grew their own food because they didn't have a Walmart in town. So, they understood the importance of having the right conditions to grow good food. But, Jesus was really highlighting the right conditions for our hearts. The first soil was too hard. A seed couldn't even be buried in the ground. This represents a person who doesn't care about God at all. The second soil was less hard but the seed couldn't grow any roots to find water to grow. This represents a person who hears about Jesus but then forgets about him. The third soil could grow the seed but then got choked out by weeds. This represents a person who might accept Jesus but then they get busy with other stuff and don't make God a priority. The last soil was the best soil. It allowed a seed to grow and produce lots of healthy plants. This represents a person who loves Jesus, honors him with their life, and tells others about Jesus. Let's be like the fourth soil and be strong crops for Jesus!

Big Idea

If we want to grow, our hearts need to be soft towards God.

Key Question

How can we have soft hearts?

Memory Verse

Matthew 13:8 "Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Have you ever planted a garden or taken care of a special plant? What did you have to do for it?** (Tip: Maybe you help your mom grow vegetables in your garden or you have a cactus in your room. A plant needs water and sun to grow. We need God's word to grow healthy and strong.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **By worshipping Jesus and living to honor him.** (Jesus came to die for us to save us from our sins. This is the best gift ever! Our response should be to honor him- remembering his power and thanking him for his sacrifice. And, we should show our love by always living to honor him)
 - **Bonus Questions:** How can we have soft hearts? Why is Jesus worthy of our worship? **4-5th** What are some things that honor God?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Psalm 1:1-3. What is the Law of the Lord? Why is it important to obey what God's word says? How will that impact our lives?** (Answer: The law of the Lord is referring to God's words which is the Bible! We should read it and obey it. God knows what's best for us so we should do as he says. When we do, we'll grow to be healthy people who look to love and serve others.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: 4 SOILS CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Heart template (page 5). Have them lay out the 4 soils in front of them.
- Have the kids color their heart. Then, read the parable from Matthew 13:1-8. As you read, have the kids identify the soil being talked about as you go and have them glue each one on to the heart in the right quadrant (1-4).
- Remind the kids that if they want to grow, they need to have soft hearts toward God that want to live their lives to honor him and want to share Jesus with their friends and family.

Supplies needed: Heart template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Glue

OPTION 2: 4 SOILS RELAY

Instructions:

- Before class, tape two long lines at each end of the room. Divide the class into 2 groups. Give each group a plate and these four items that represent the 4 soils: superball, small plastic cup, piece of yarn and a fake flower.
- When you say "Go!", the first kid in line holds up the plate while the team gets all 4 items on the plate. The kid then has to get to the other end of the room and back without losing any of the items. Continue until every kid has had a turn. Team to do it fastest, wins.

Supplies needed: Tape, 2 plates, 2 sets of: Superball, small plastic cup, yarn and fake flower

Q4

LIFE OF JESUS

The 4 Soils

Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- The first soil wasn't _____ enough, so birds came and ate all the seeds. Matthew 13:3-8
- The second soil wasn't _____ enough, so the plants had no roots.
- The third soil was _____, so they killed the plants.
- The fourth soil was _____ and produced a lot of crops.

Big Idea

If we want to grow, our hearts need to be soft towards God

Key Question

How can we have soft hearts?

Memory Verse

Matthew 13:8 "Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. Have you ever planted a garden or taken care of a special plant? What did you have to do for it?
3. What is a parable? What was Jesus really teaching in the story of the soils?
4. What was wrong with each of the first 3 soils? What made the 4th soil so great?
5. Read Psalm 1:1-3. What is the Law of the Lord? Why is it important to obey what God's word says? How will that impact our lives?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

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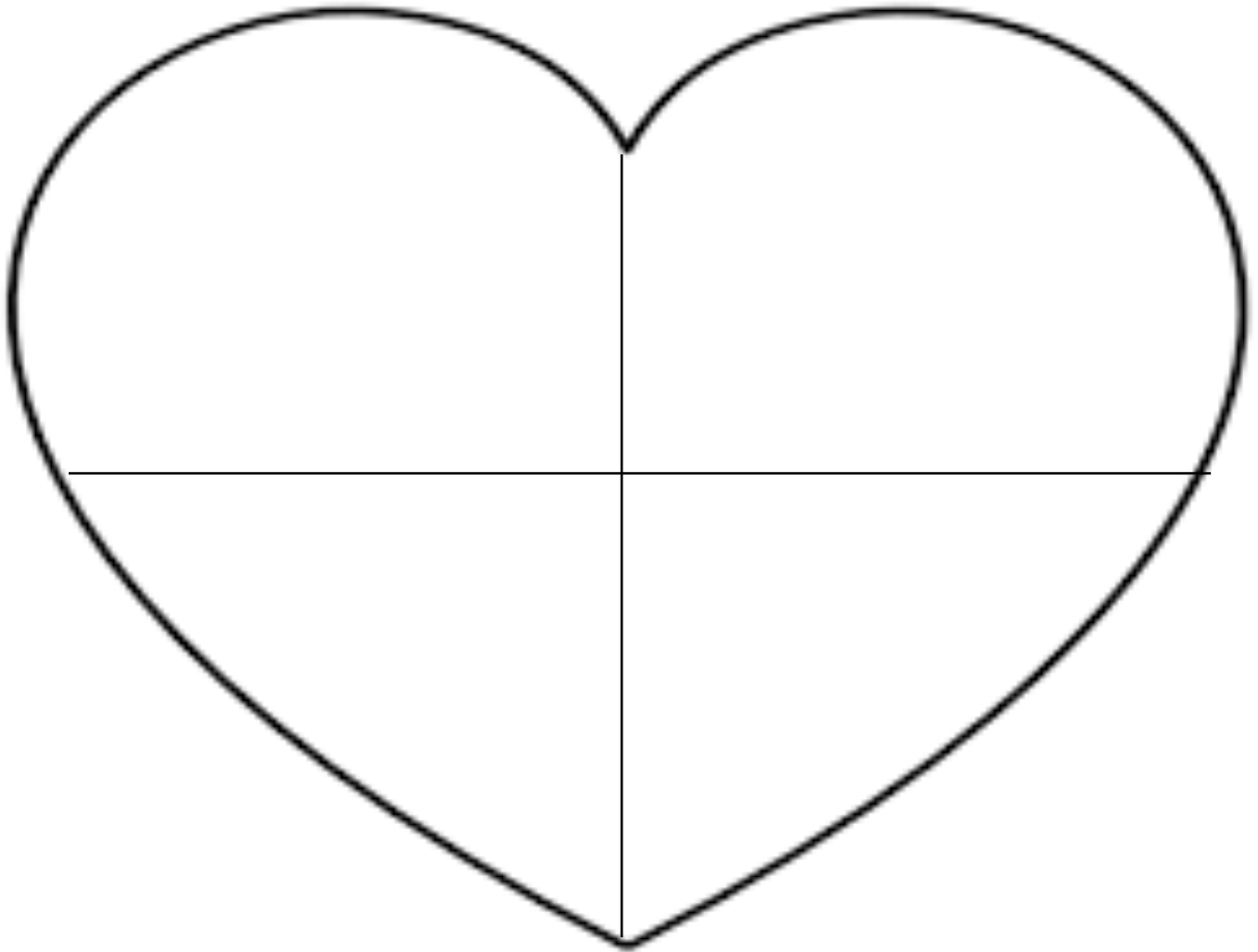
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HARD

NO
ROOTS

WEEDS

HEALTHY