

The Parable of the Sower

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The sower went out to plant his garden.
As he walked along the rows
 he shoved his hand down into his bag,
 he grabbed a handful of seeds
 and he flung them into the air.
Those little seeds went everywhere!

Some skittered along the hard dirt path
 where the sower was walking.
They just laid on the path
 until the birds ate them
 because the ground was too hard.
The seeds never grew.

Some of the seeds bounced off the path
 and they landed where the sower had thrown
 the rocks he dug out of the garden.
They fell between the rocks and started to grow
 but there wasn't much dirt there
 so they couldn't grow strong roots.
When their leaves poked out of the rocks
 the sun was too hot for them.
The seeds stopped growing.

Some of the seeds landed at the edge of the garden
 on the ground where the sower hadn't plowed.
They started to grow...
 but so did the weeds
 and soon the weeds grew tall and choked out the seed.
The seeds stopped growing.

But some of those seeds the sower threw into the air
fell like rain on the freshly-turned earth
he had plowed for them.

They started to grow
because the ground wasn't so hard
that the birds got to eat them.

They grew strong roots
because there were no rocks in the way.

They grew up tall
because there were no weeds to choke them out.

They grew taller and taller and taller
until it was time for the harvest...

And what a BIG harvest it was!

The Parable of the Sower is one of the best-known parables Jesus told, and it's recorded in three gospels — Matthew 13: 3-9, Mark 4:3-9 and Luke 8:4-8. It's also one of the few parables that is explained — in Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:14-20 and Luke 8:11-15.