

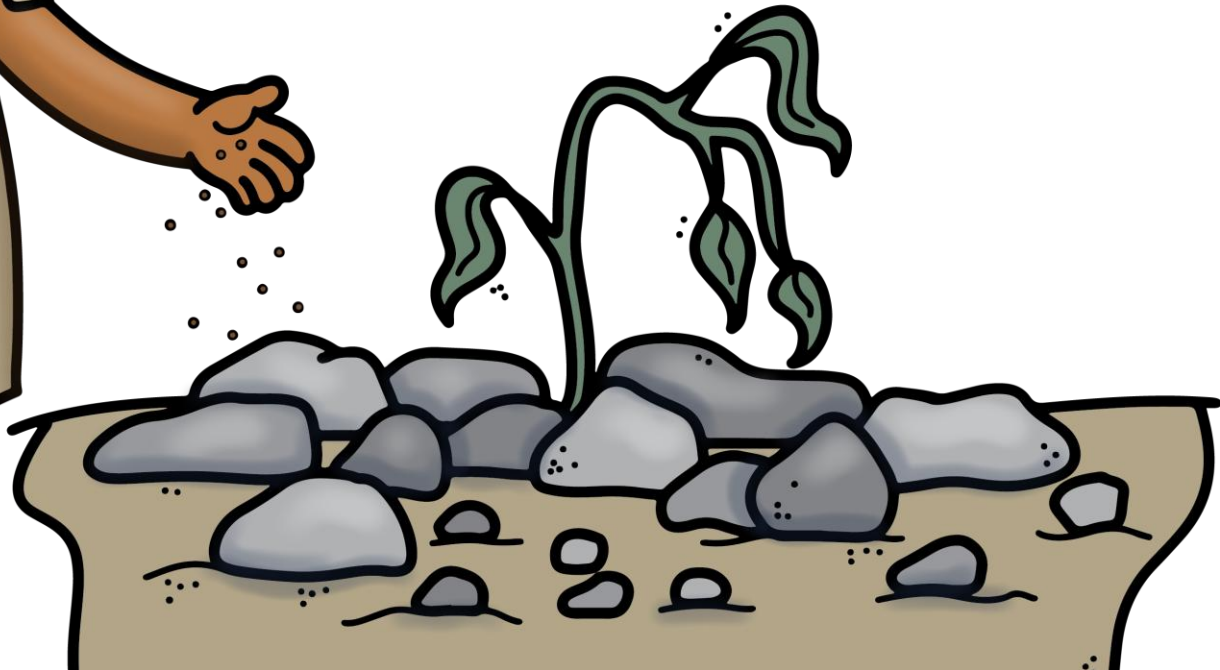
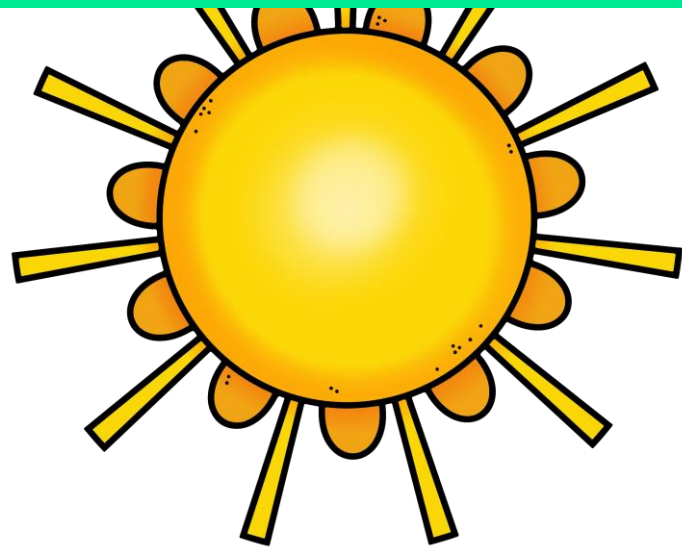
EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS



Poet Prints TEACHING





The Parable of the Sower

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the Parable of the Sower from your children's Bible or preferred translation of the Bible. It can be found in Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15.

If you'd rather watch the story, many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Search "Parable of the Sower Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Be sure to watch the video fully before showing it to your class to be sure it's appropriate.

Background Information:

To help kids visualize the different soils, I suggest preparing jars filled with each soil type: rocky, thorny, and good. You can try to find a piece of concrete to represent the hard path. You can also find pictures of each to show your students.

A parable was a short story that Jesus used to teach people about God. These stories helped people to understand what Jesus was saying because He connected the stories to the people's everyday lives. Parables can also be easier to remember than long speeches.

The Seeds: The seeds represent the Word of God (the Bible and Jesus' teachings). Jesus was explaining that we need to listen to His teachings.

The Hard Path (way side in KJV): This is the only type of ground in the story not capable of growing some sort of plant. This represents when people have hard hearts. A hard heart doesn't mean that a person's heart is literally hard, like a solid. This means that they refuse to listen to the Word of God.

The Rocky/Stony Soil: This represents people who hear the Word of God and are full of joy. But their joy only lasts a short time because they do not take time to help their relationships with God grow. When hard times come, they do not trust God.

The Thorny Soil: This represents people who hear the Word of God, but they worry about things or want things more than they want to learn about God. They are distracted by the things around them.

The Good Soil: This represents the people who hear the Word of God and do what it says. They spend time with God.

How can we spend time with God? We read our Bibles, pray, memorize verses, sing worship songs, go to church, and talk about God with trusted people.

Step Two: Explore the story.

After reading or watching the parable, use the retell the story worksheet to retell the main parts of today's story. This can be done individually or in small groups. If you don't want to print out these worksheets, you can also map out the story together on a piece of large paper or a whiteboard.

The Sower and the Seed – Map out the four main parts of the story.

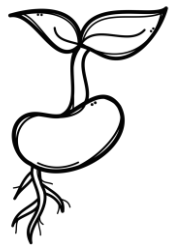
- Seeds fell on the path (the way side in KJV) and the birds ate them
- Seeds fell on rocky/stony places, and it was scorched by the sun
- Seeds fell on among the thorns, which choked the plants
- Seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop.

Then, talk through the discussion questions as a group.

The Parable of the Sower	
1	2
3	4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	
QUESTION #1 What do seeds need to grow?	QUESTION #2 In the story, which seeds grow?
QUESTION #3 Which seeds did not grow in the story?	QUESTION #4 What does this story teach us about God?

The Parable of the Sower



Step Three: Do the activity and the craft.

Activity: Plant a Seed

To help students understand what it means to be a 'sower,' plant a seed together.

1. Give each student a small disposable cup. Glue the [circles on page 8](#) to each cup.
2. Fill the cup with good potting soil.
3. Press one finger into the top of the soil to create a small well.
4. Place a seed in the soil and cover it up. Many different seeds will work; choose one that works well in your climate. I like to plant beans or sunflowers.
5. Cover the seed with dirt and lightly water it.

As a group, talk about what that seed will need to grow. Seeds need water, good soil, sunlight, and air to grow. Ask your kids why the different seeds in the parable may not have been able to grow. What were they missing?

Craft: Story Circles

Before the lesson, print out a [story circle template](#) and a set of Parable of the Sower Bible verses ([NIV](#) or [KJV](#)) for each student. Gather scissors, glue, and coloring materials. Find a binder clip or key ring for each child.

1. Cut out all five story circles and the five Bible verses
2. Glue the corresponding Bible verse to the back of each story circle card. (The story circle with the number 1 should have the Bible verse with the number 1 glued to the back.)
3. Punch a hole in each circle's top and attach them with a binder clip.



Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Parable of the Sower' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Students will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

Then Jesus said, Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear. Mark 4:9 NIV

Big idea suggestion: God wants us to listen to His word.



The Parable of the Sower

Name: _____

1

2

3

4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

What do seeds need to grow?

QUESTION #2

In the story, which seeds *grew*?

QUESTION #3

Which seeds *did not* grow in the story?

QUESTION #4

What does this story teach us about God?



Jesus, help me
to be like a
seed planted
in good soil.



The Parable of the Sower
Mark 4:1-2:



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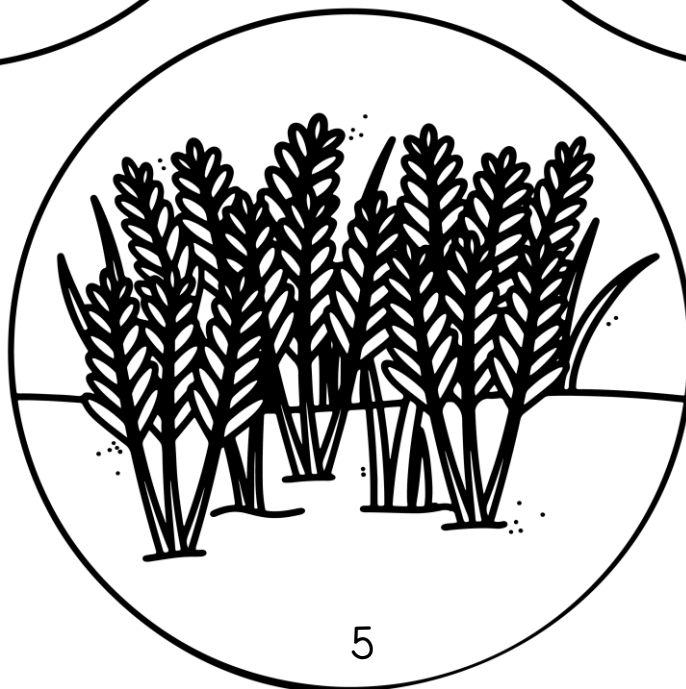
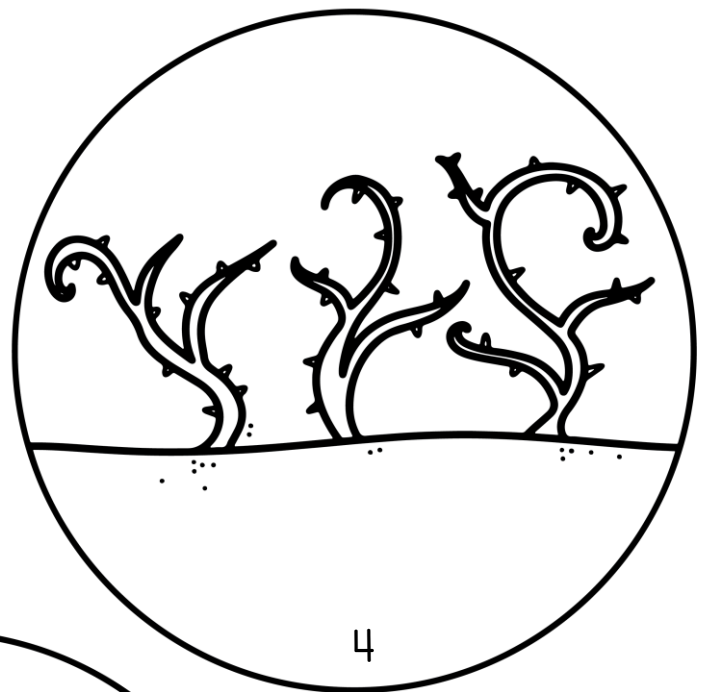
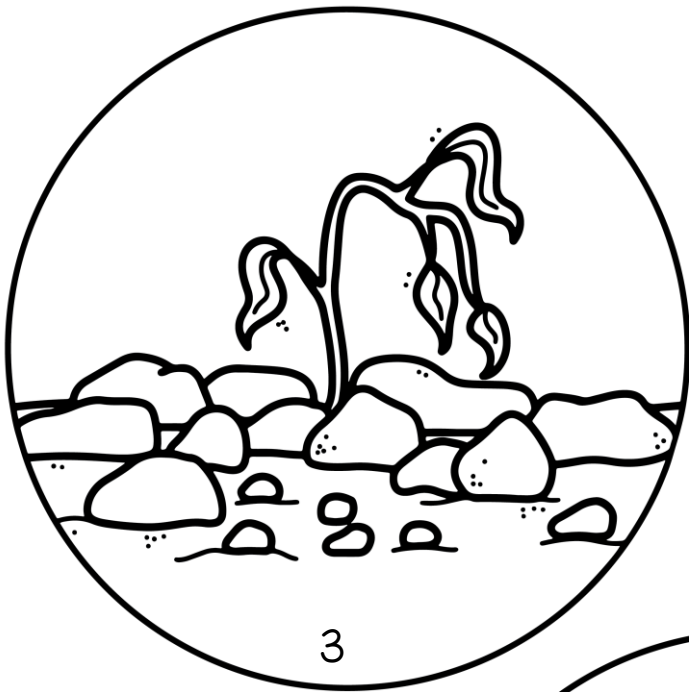
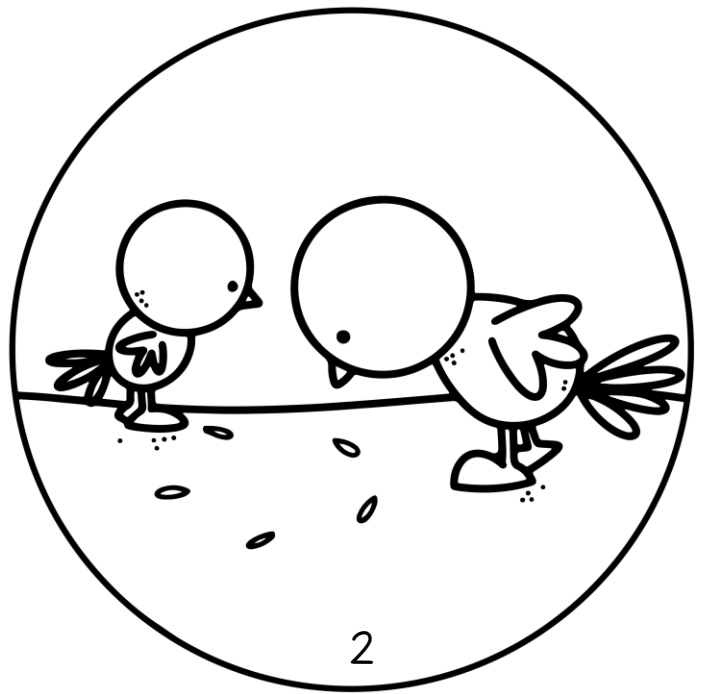
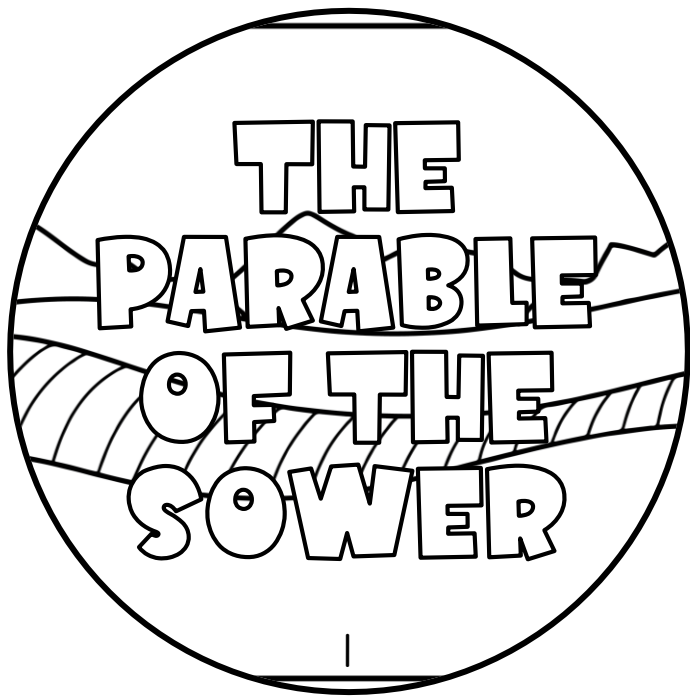
The Parable of the Sower
Mark 4:1-2:



Jesus, help me
to be like a
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in good soil.



The Parable of the Sower
Mark 4:1-2:



1

Behold, there went
out a sower to sow:
and it came to pass
as he sowed...

2

**...some fell by the
way side,** and the
fowls of the air
came and devoured
it up.

3

...some fell on stony ground
where it had not much earth,
and it immediately sprang up,
because it had no depth of
earth: But when the sun was up,
it was scorched; and because it
had no root, it withered away.

4

**...some fell among
thorns,** and the
thorns grew up and
choked it, and it
yielded no fruit.

5

**...other fell on good
ground,** and did yield
fruit that sprang up
and increased...

KJV

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KJV

1

Listen! A farmer
went out to sow
his seed..

2

...some fell along the
path, and the birds
came and ate it up.

3

...some fell on rocky places,
where it did not have much soil.
It sprang up quickly, because
the soil was shallow. But when
the sun came up, the plants
were scorched, and they
withered because they had no
root.

4

...other seed fell
among thorns, which
grew up and choked
the plants, so that they
did not bear grain.

5

...still other seed fell
on good soil. It came
up, grew, and
produced a crop...

NIV

1

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his seed..

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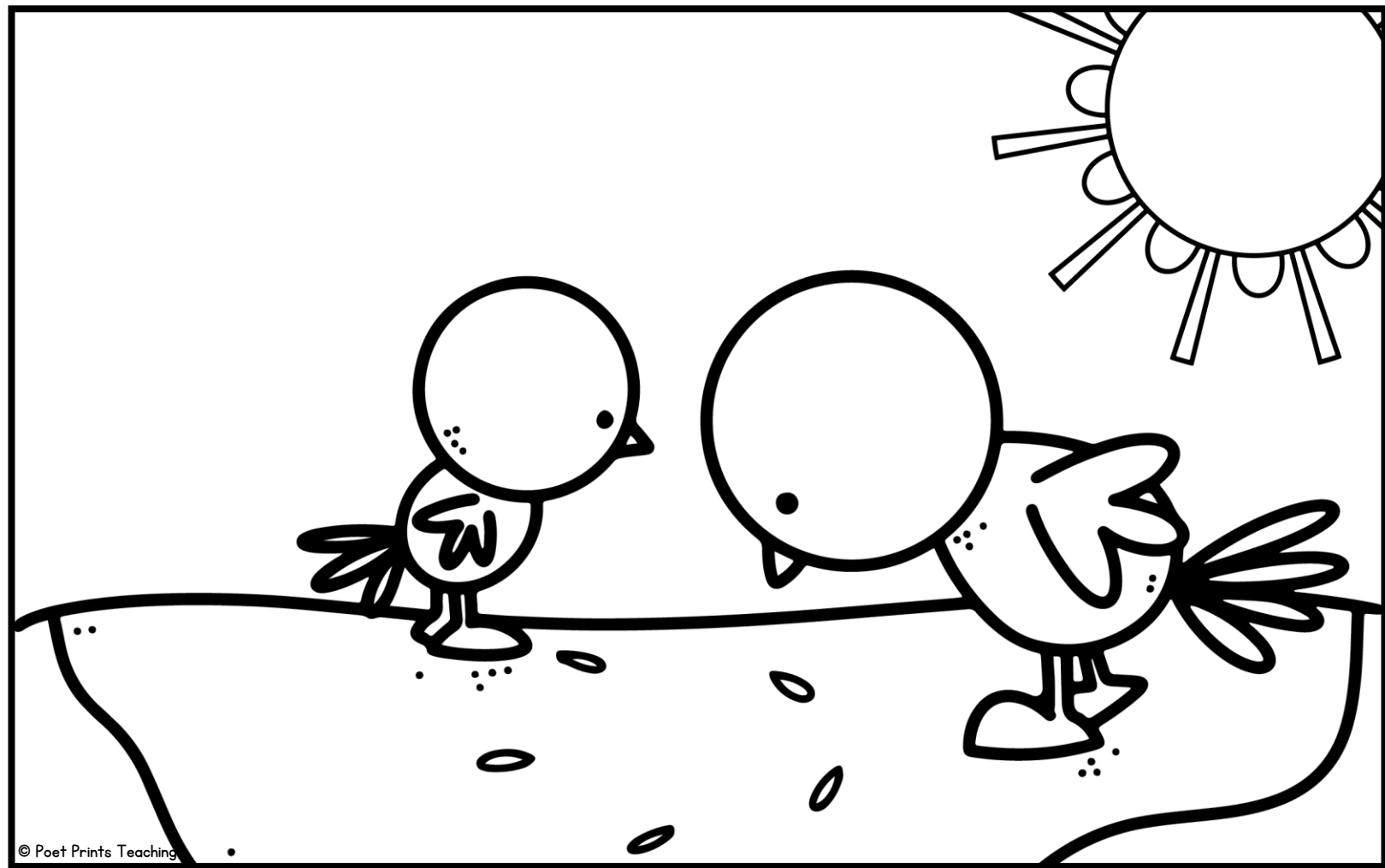
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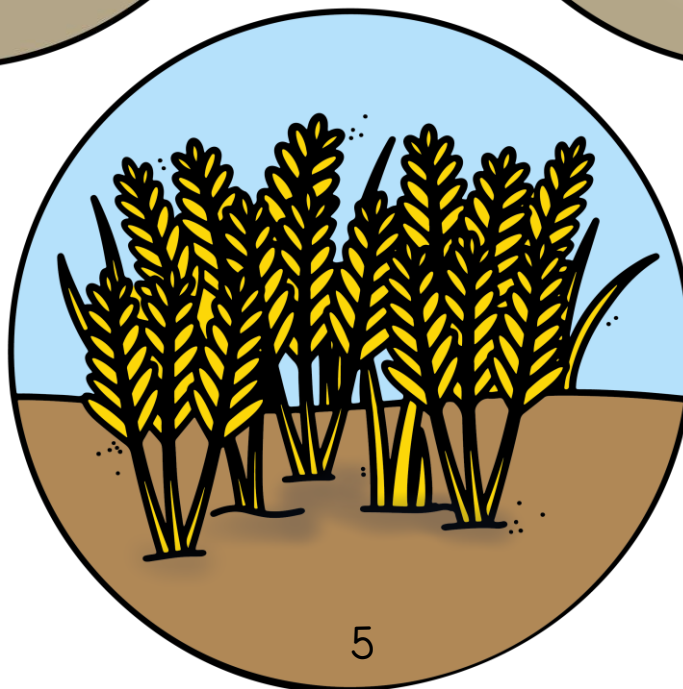
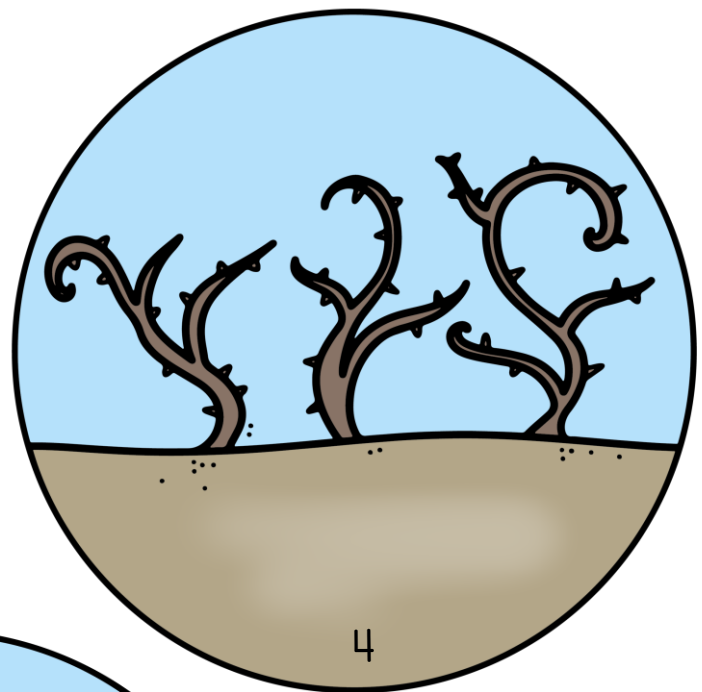
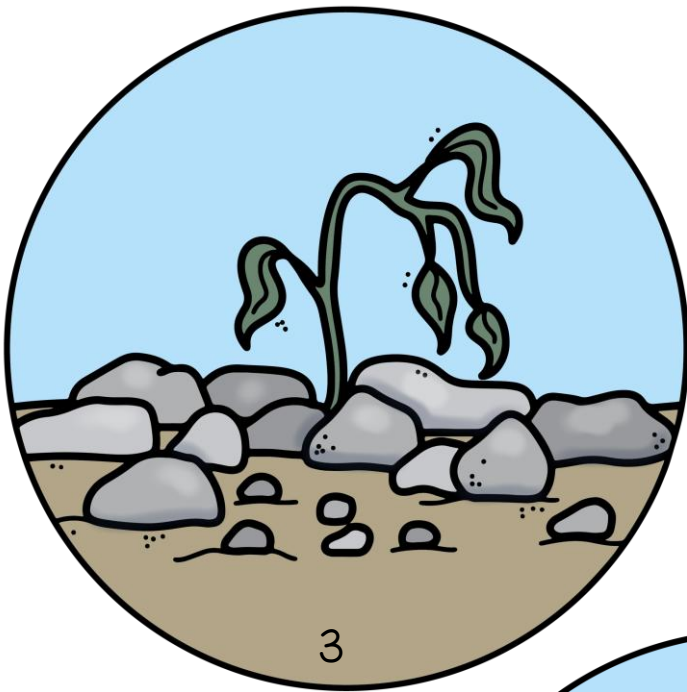
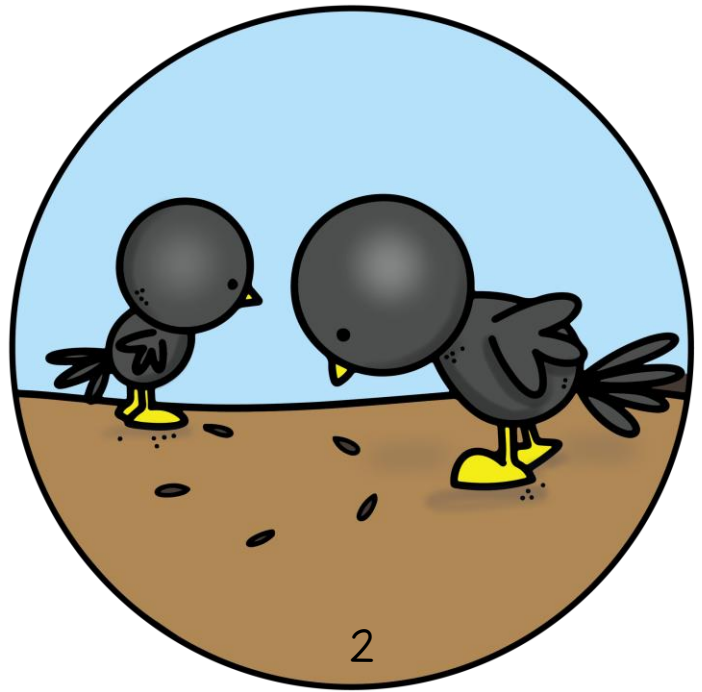
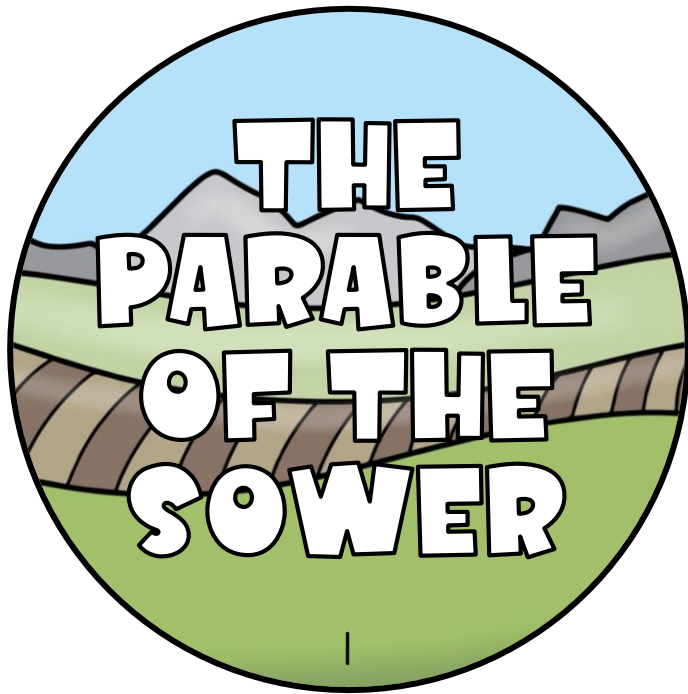
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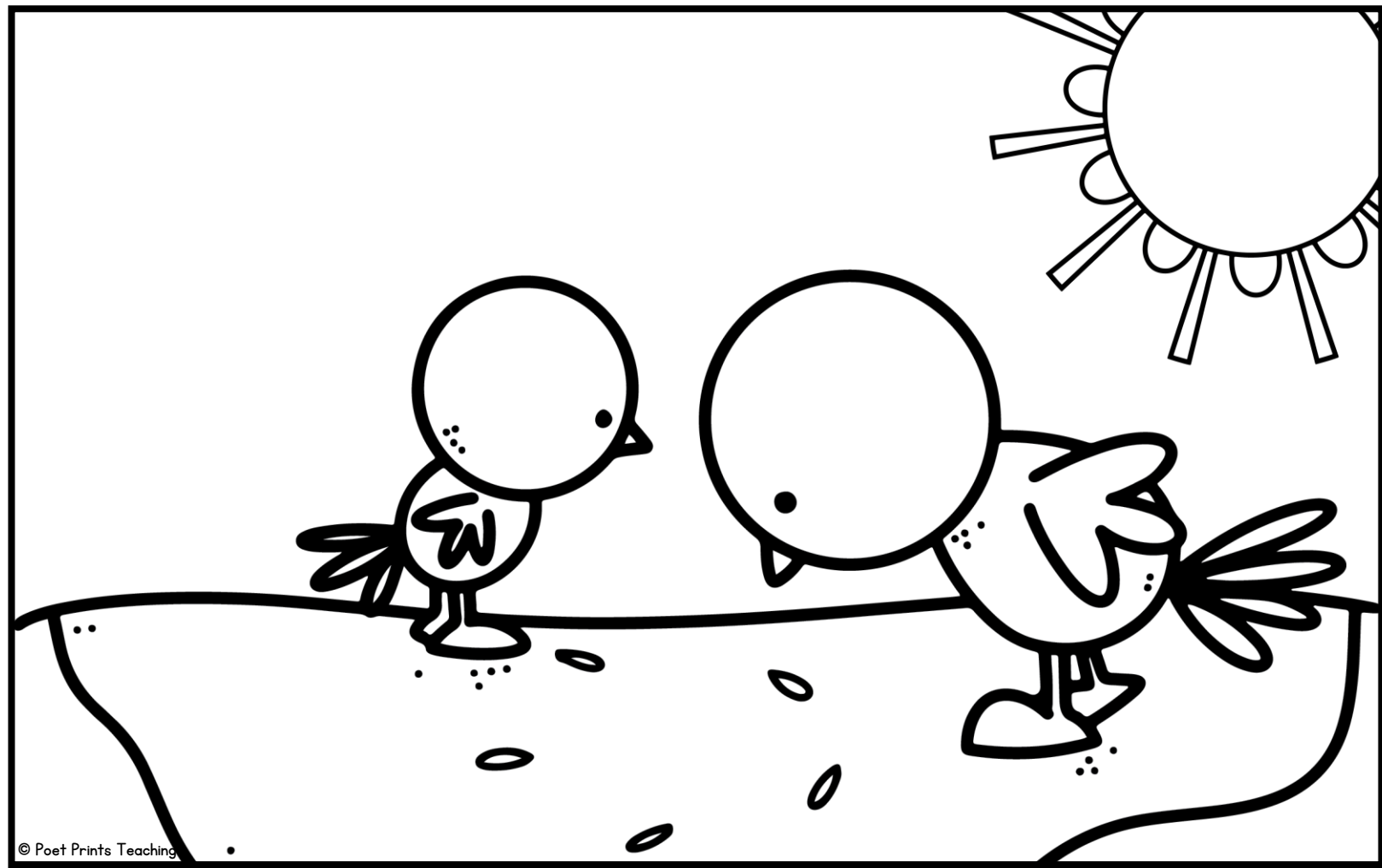
MEMORIZE THIS:

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?



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Then Jesus said,
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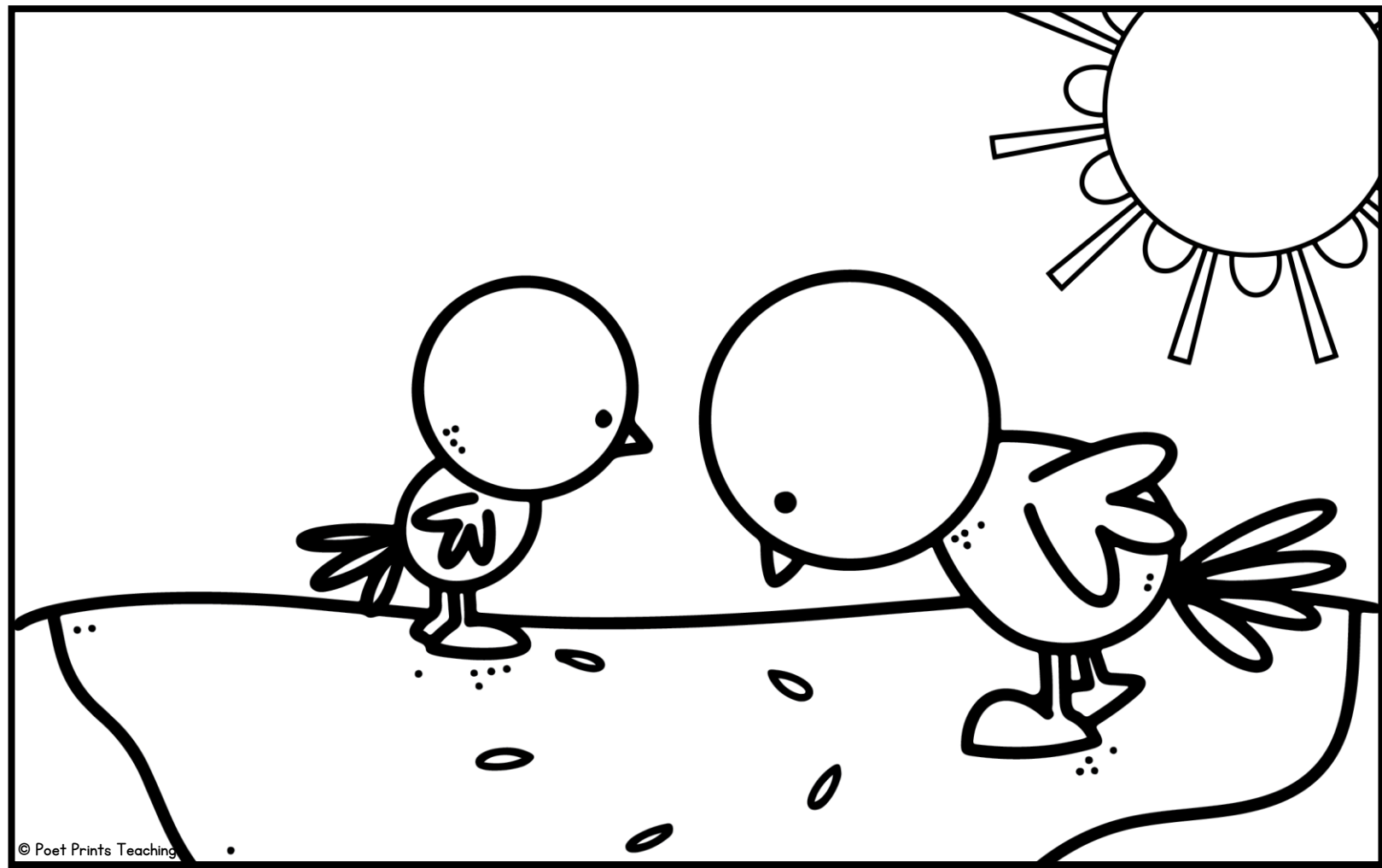
Mark 4:9 NIV

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