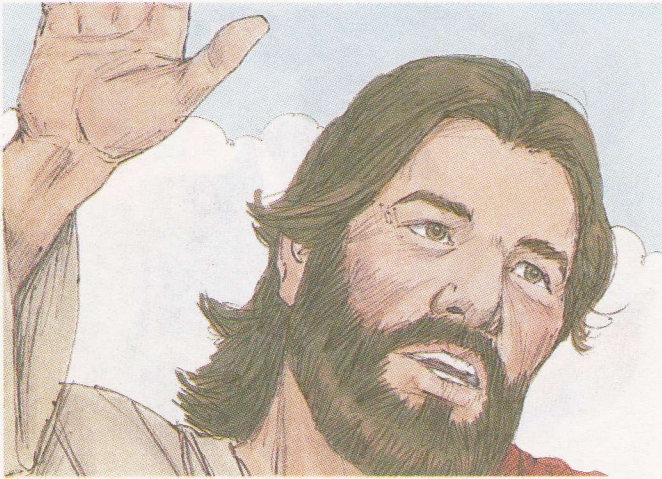
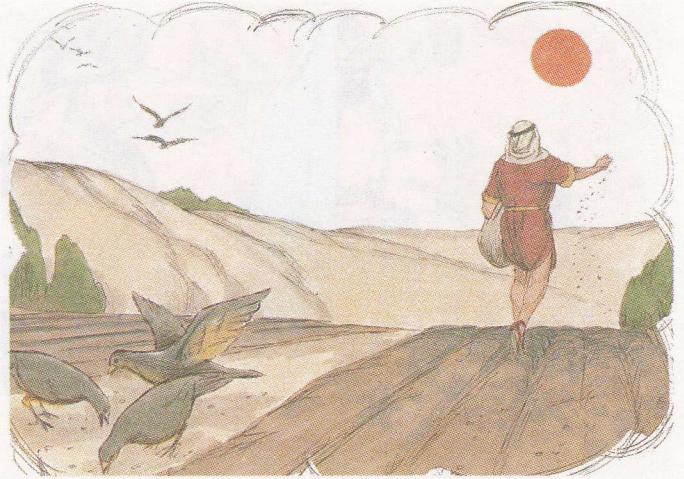


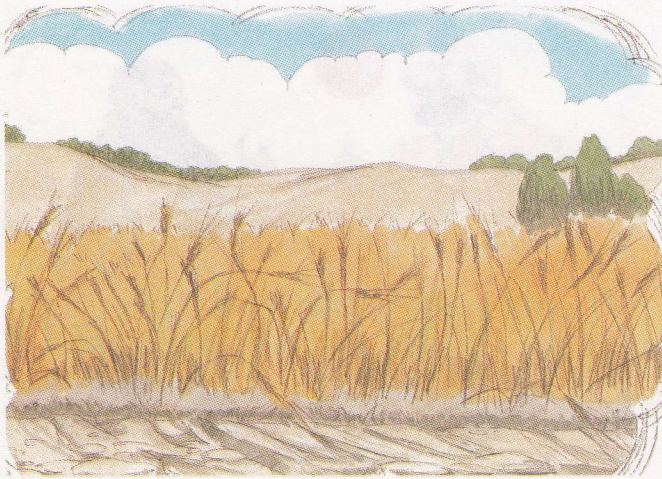
# The Parable of the Sower



**1** One day when Jesus was sitting beside the sea, a crowd began to gather around him. So Jesus got into a boat, and while the crowd stood on the shore, he taught them in parables.



**2** "A sower went out to sow some seed in his field," he said. "But some of the seeds fell along the path. The birds immediately flew down and ate them."



**3** "Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there was not much soil. The seeds quickly sprouted. But when the sun came up, they were scorched. Their roots didn't go deep, and they just dried up."



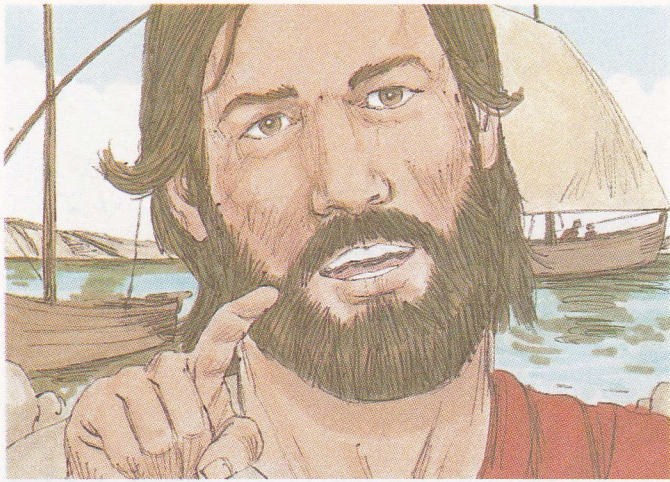
**4** "Other seeds fell on thorny ground. The thorns choked out the seeds when they started growing, so they didn't produce any grain, either."



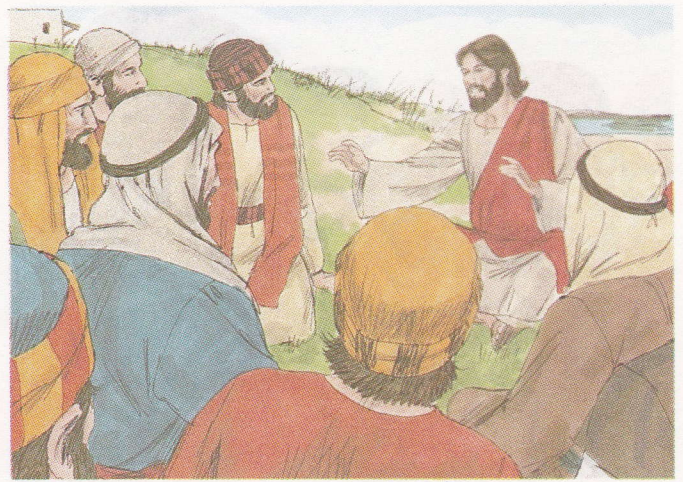
**5** "Other seeds fell on good soil, and brought forth great amounts of grain — some thirty-fold, some sixty-fold, and some a hundred-fold. He who has ears, let him hear."



**6** Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the crowds in parables?"



**7** Jesus replied, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. But to them it has not been given. They hear but do not understand, lest they repent and be forgiven."



**8** "But you my disciples are truly fortunate, because you are seeing what the prophets and righteous men of old longed to see and hear." Then Jesus explained the parable to the disciples.



**9** "The seed is the word of God," he said. "The ones along the path are those who hear the word but do not understand it. Satan quickly comes and takes away the word from their hearts."



**10** "Those sown on rocky ground are people who hear the word and immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root in themselves and so when troubles and suffering come along, they fall away."



**11** "Those sown among thorns are people who hear the word but the cares of the world and the desire for money choke the word so that it cannot bear fruit."



**12** "As for what was sown on good soil, these are people who hear the word and understand it. They bear fruit, some yielding thirty-fold, some sixty-fold, and some a hundred-fold."