

# St Wilfrid's Family Focus

*12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – The Parable of the Sower*

**Welcome** to this week's Family Focus! A weekly opportunity for you to gather together as a family and spend some time with God. As usual there is a story to read, some things to wonder about, a song to sing and some suggestions for activities and prayer. Use them in whatever way works best for you. We pray that you will know that God is with you as you meet together today, wherever you are. Have fun!



## Story – The Parable of the Sower

Today we're looking at a story Jesus told, which you can find in the Bible in Matthew Chapter 13, verses 1-9 and 18-23, or here on Bible Gateway:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13.+1-23&version=GNT>

Here is also an animation of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb7bvF5Ucrk>



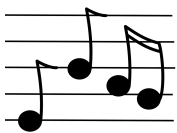
I wonder...

Here are some things you might like to wonder about together

- I wonder which part of this story you like best?
- I wonder who the sower really is?

- I wonder why the sower scatters the seeds everywhere, on all the different types of ground?
- I wonder how the sower felt when the birds came and ate the seeds?
- I wonder how the sower felt when the seeds sown on rocky ground and in the thorns died?
- I wonder how the sower felt when the seed in the good soil grew and there was a harvest? I wonder if the sower was surprised
- I wonder what the harvest was?
- I wonder what this story tells us about what Jesus is like?

Jesus gave us parables to help us learn more about who God is, and get to know him for ourselves. They are sometimes a bit like a maze, because we have to try and get to the centre of them and work out what God is saying to us. In this parable, Jesus tells us that the seeds represent his message about God's Kingdom, and he wants us to hear that message and understand it, so that we can bear fruit, like the seed which fell on the good soil. We can spend time with God in lots of different ways. We can read Bible stories, chat to him in our prayers, sing songs of worship to him, or do some of the activities from Family Focus. All of these things can help us to spend time with God and get to know him better. I wonder what fruit we will produce for his Kingdom?



## Song - Lord I lift Your Name On High

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4B2WJcvNm8>

This song reminds us that God sent Jesus to show us the way, and to help us get to know him better. Jesus made a way for us to be friends with God forever. See if you can join in with the actions.



## Prayer time

Here is a simple prayer you can say:

Dear God,

Thank you for wanting to be my friend, and for sending Jesus to help me get to know you. Please help me to spend time with you this week, and to learn more about you. I pray for those who are sad or struggling at this time and ask that you would be close to them. I pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_ (name anyone you think needs to know that God loves them today)

In Jesus name,

Amen



## Activities

### Make a Paper Flower Garden

#### You will need:

- Tissue paper, coffee filters, and/or cupcake cases
- Felt tips, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or staples
- Pipe cleaners or straws
- Cup or pot for display



#### Method:

1. Use felt tips to decorate coffee filters and/or cupcake cases with colour. If time and resources allow, consider lightly misting the coffee filters to allow the colours to soak through (if using this method, let the filter dry completely).

2. Fold tissue paper using an "accordion-style" back and forth fold. Carefully arch the paper to create a circular "flower" shape.
3. Add pom-poms, pipe cleaners, or additional decorations as desired.
4. Use pipe cleaners or straws for "stems" to attach the flowers onto something sturdy. Display in a cup or pot as desired.

## Re-tell the story



You will need:

- A tray or container
- Something to represent the earth, stones, thorns and path - get out in the garden and be creative!
- A figure for the sower, from a toy or cut out of paper
- Some paper birds

Put all your materials representing the different types of ground in your tray, and re-tell the story. How does each bit of ground feel? Do you think seed is likely to grow there? What kind of harvest do you think could grow in the good soil? What kind of harvest do you think God wants to grow in you?

## Cress Heads

Follow these instructions from the CBeebies website to grow your own Cress! You will need to give them plenty of water and light so that they grow well. As you watch them grow, remember that God wants us to grow in our friendship with him, and produce fruit for his kingdom.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/mr-blooms-nursery-cressheads?collection=spring>

# The Parable of the Sower

