

Lesson No. 04 20-26 July 2024

Parables

Key Texts: *Mark 4:1–34, James 1:21, Isaiah 6:1–13, Psalm 104:12, Daniel 4:10–12.*

Themes of the Week

1. The Parables convey the great truths of the kingdom with examples, symbols and allegories.
2. Frequent elements to which the parables refer are the Word and Nature.
3. In the text of the Sower, the lesson is multifaceted: the role of the seed, types of soil and different reactions.

Suggestions for Teaching

Group work:

- Encourage everyone to identify the specifics of good soil.
- Read the text and encourage everyone to share the main message received from the parables.
- Help those present to expound their specific personal understanding and encourage comparison and discussion to understand the meaning.
- Study the different aptitudes of the good soil to understand that everyone can become like the good soil.

Group Objectives

Pastoral

Spiritual

Emphasise why this parable is the most important.

Missionary

The parable teaches a fundamental principle of mission: sowing the Word.

Possible Questions for Deeper Study, Sharing and Application

1. What soil do you think you are most like? The path, the rocky ground, the thorny ground, the good soil?
2. What distinguishes the good soil from the others? Read and compare Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15.
3. Why does Jesus declare that if we do not understand the parable of the sower, we cannot understand the others? Mark 4:13.
4. How can we help our brethren to all become good soil?
5. What does this parable teach about mission? In what does the mission consist?