

CHRISTlessontwenty-two

Rooted or Rootless? (Parable of the Sower)

biblical passage: Mark 4:3–20

memory verse: Mark 4:20

“But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

It's Thursday night of camp. The night when so many get emotional. “Decisions” are made for Christ. Some teenagers have aptly named this “Cry Night” because they know that for many this is the time when they are on an emotional high. Later, these kids find themselves caught in a struggle when they come down off the high.

Read Mark 4:3–20. Although teenagers might find this parable a little difficult to understand at first, a little investigation helps them see that the concepts of Jesus' story of the Sower and the Seed are not far-fetched in regards to their own lives. Teenagers often find themselves in a difficult place. After having received God's Word, and taking it to heart, they fall in the bad soil of school or home. Often, the truth they have received cannot adequately put down roots. Some quickly discover that the influence of the world (rocky or thorny soil) either keeps the Word from putting down any roots at all, or chokes it out.

Your teenagers can understand the spiritual need they have in their lives, but lack the encouragement to keep going. They need your help. Find time to spend with your children, discovering where they are in their walk with God. They may need you to help them find the right soil so that God's Word can put down roots.

Family Devotion Time

Connect . . .

If weather permits, the family meets outside. Family members divide up and each look for one of the four different types of soil in Jesus' parable in Mark 4:3–20—hard, rocky, thorny, good. Once found, the family comes back together and shares their findings and where each is located.

Explore . . .

Family members share in reading Mark 4:3–20. The family moves to one of the areas where hard soil has been found. The family discusses why this soil would create difficulty for seed to take root and why the birds might find it first. The family then moves to the rocky soil, and then to the thorny (or weed-filled) soil, having the same discussion. The family then moves to an area where landscaping has occurred and the soil is rich, bearing flowers or other plant life. The family discusses why it is so easy for a seed to take root, grow, and produce beautiful flowers, plants, or even fruit.

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **If the seed is God's Word, and my life represents the soil, which kind of soil am I? What has to happen in order for the soil of my life to be good soil?**

Pray together as a family that you will become the kind of soil that takes God's Word and allows it to become deeply rooted in your life.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Student Life Publishing, 2005. All rights reserved. Permission is granted for reproduction only for the study of Student Life Bible Study curriculum by a licensed church during the licensed year. No online or other duplication is permitted.

