

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023, children's talk

Hi everyone! I hope you are all okay, and have been enjoying the sunny weather.

Today we are in my garden – to have a look at some of the plants and flowers. But also, to look at seeds. Let's see if we can find any seeds.

Because the sun has been shining and it's also been raining, the plants have been growing faster than normal. Here are some plants I grew from seed. This is a squash plant – can you see the orange flower? These are sweet peas, you can't eat these, they are grown for the lovely flowers, which also smell really nice! Here are some seed pods from the sweet peas – I will save these and grow them again next year.

Here we have some runner bean plants – the flowers will be where the beans will grow. And here you can see some tomato plants – they have tomatoes growing on them – but they aren't ripe yet, we have to wait for them to turn red.

In our story today Jesus told a crowd of people a story about a farmer who was sowing some seeds. As he scattered them, some of the seed fell onto the path and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell onto rocky ground where it started to grow, but then the sun came out and it didn't have enough roots to keep it growing so it shrivelled up and died. Other seed fell amongst the weeds where it was choked and couldn't grow. Other seed fell onto good soil where it grew strong and produced 30, 60, 100 times more wheat. "Listen!", Jesus said, "those who have ears, listen!"

Then Jesus explained the story. The seed that is on the path is like when the good things God has planted in our hearts gets taken away. The seed on the rocky path, is like when someone hears the word of God, loves it and is full of joy, but then as soon as trouble comes, they forget all that they have learnt. The seed among the thorns is when someone hears God's word but greed and worry take over. And the seed that is planted in good soil is like when someone hears the word of God, loves it, lives it, and produces 30, 60 and 100 times more goodness as a result.

You can find this story in Matthew chapter 13.

Let's talk to God now:

We thank you, creator God, for good soil.  
For all the ways you provide opportunities  
for us to learn and grow.  
We thank you for the seeds of truth,  
love and grace that you plant in our lives  
and in our times together.

**Amen.**