



Sunday, 28th June
The farmer's seeds

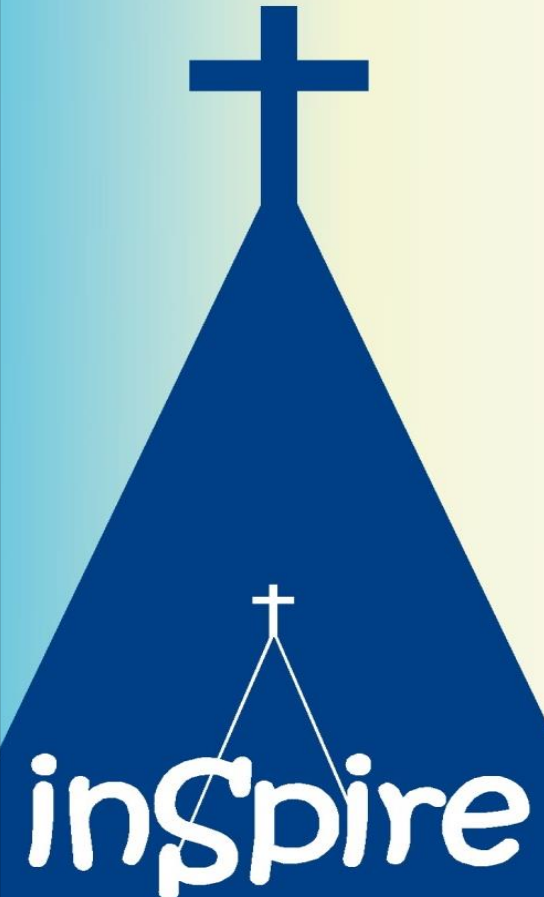
Hello everyone. How are you all? We hope you have enjoyed this week. It has been SO hot hasn't it!

Our story today is another great one that Jesus told. He was always telling stories about God's great love and people loved hearing them. They came from far and wide to hear him speak.

Lots of people have been growing vegetables and flowers from seeds during lockdown. Have you been growing anything? If you have, you will really understand what Jesus says in this story. If you haven't, don't worry! You will still understand the story and maybe you will want to try and grow something this week.

Why don't you imagine you have travelled a long way and you are sitting there in the crowd listening to Jesus talking. This is what he said.....

There was once a farmer. He was a very happy, cheery man and he loved planting his fields and watching his seeds grow. In Jesus' time, farmers planted their seeds by hand. They carried a bag, slung across their side, full of seed. They would take



handfuls of the seeds and fling it across their field. (You could act this out!)

Some seeds fell on the path. The birds came and gobbled them up.

Some seeds fell among stones in the ground. They started to grow but it was difficult for them to grow properly as the stones got in the way. This was a big problem when it got hot as the little plants just shrivelled up and died. (Has this happened to any of your plants in the heat?)

Some of the seeds landed amongst thorns and brambles and lots of other weeds. These little seeds started to grow but the weeds were stronger and choked them.

But lots of the seeds landed on the lovely rich ground. They were able to put down really deep roots. When it got really hot that wasn't a problem because their deep roots were able to find water in the ground and so they grew big and strong.

The explanation of the story can be given in different ways depending on the age of your children....

For older children

Jesus' friends wanted to know what this story meant. "Tell us, Jesus!" they said. "What does this story mean?"

Jesus said, "This story tells us what happens when people hear about God's love for them.

The seed that falls on the path is like people who hear about God's love but don't do anything about it in their lives.

The seeds that fall amongst the weeds are like people who hear about God's love and they like what they hear. They start to follow God and grow in his love but then, after a while, they let other things get in the way of living how God wants them to. Other things become much more important to them. They don't make time to be with God, to speak with him in prayer and to find out more about him by reading their Bibles. In the end, they forget about God's amazing love for them.

But the seeds that fall in the good, rich soil are like people who put their faith and trust in God. They become rooted in his love. They really listen to God and know how good God's love is. God is like the rich soil, providing them with everything they need. In good times and in difficult times, they stay strong in God's love and God continues to nourish them. They are always close to him.

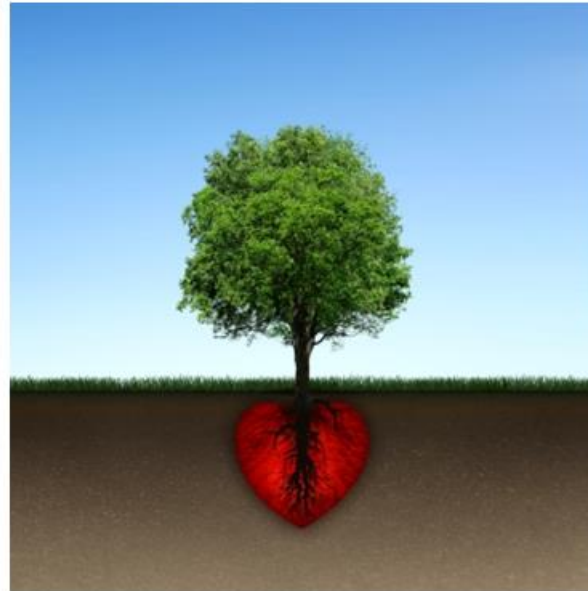
For younger children

God wants us to be like the seed that falls in the lovely field. He wants us to talk with him, listen to him and so grow big and strong in his love.

How can we do that?

So let's all try to be.....

rooted in God's love



[Let's sing some great songs:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaXPXWBcE3I)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaXPXWBcE3I>

Our God is a Great Big God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaMVjO_GruA Jesus' Love is Very Wonderful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3iG1gkW9R0> A new one but can be sung as a prayer..... A gift to you. Rather lovely.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da_LbBewte8 The seed song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaMVjO_GruA The farmer plants a seed a nursery rhyme but you can add a verse at the end, "We all grow in God's love."

Get yourself into a comfortable position so you can have a chat with *God* in your head. Maybe Mum or Dad could help lead your thoughts!

Thank *God* for something you have really enjoyed this week..... something you did/ something you ate/ the sunshine.....

Thank *God* for a time when you were worried about something but has *God* helped you.

Thank *God* for his great love for you.....

Ask *God* to help you listen to him and get to know him better. Tell *God* one way you will try and do this.

Thank him for today's story.

Spend a moment quietly and see if God puts a thought or a picture into your mind.

The say..... Thank you, God, for your love for each one of us.

Amen.

You might like to say the Lord's Prayer together.

Let's get creative

Plant some seeds to remind you of the story. They can be any seeds. If you don't have any in a packet, try planting seeds from fruit or vegetables. You can grow tomato seeds..... or I've discovered that butternut squash seeds grow really well!! (and there are so many seeds in a butternut squash!) 😊 😊 These are how mine are looking now. I'm going to have so much butternut squash!

Why not decorate the flower pot you are using?

You could always paint a big heart on it to remind you of God's love.

Make a collage out of lentils/rice

You could do any design....



What about putting "God loves me!" in the centre or at the bottom of your collage?

[Watch a video of today's story.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSS8huDbriM> this is from Saddleback Kids again.

Have a good week everyone and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Stay safe

With love and blessings

Hilary, Rosemary, Helen H, Alison, Lynda, Jonathan and Helen P

