



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE
Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

- S. – Seek & Submit
- H. – Hear & Heed
- I. – Imagine & Insight
- F. – Focus & Function
- T. – Totally Transformed

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

IMAGINE

August 9 – Spiritual Growth

Scripture:

Song:

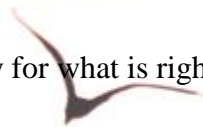
<p>Read your Bible, pray every day Pray every day, pray every day Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow. And you'll grow, grow, grow And you'll grow, grow, grow. Read your Bible, pray every day And you'll grow, grow, grow.</p>	<p>Neglect your Bible, forget to pray Neglect your Bible, forget to pray Neglect your Bible, forget to pray And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink Neglect your Bible, forget to pray And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink</p>	<p>Read your Bible, pray every day Pray every day, pray every day Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow. And you'll grow, grow, grow And you'll grow, grow, grow. Read your Bible, pray every day And you'll grow, grow, grow.</p>
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Memory Verse:

Matthew 5:6 NIRV

Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right. They will be filled.

Scripture: (Read with me)



Mark 2:2 - 9

- 2 He taught them many things by using stories. In his teaching he said,
- 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed.
- 4 He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. Birds came and ate it up.
- 5 Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn't much soil. The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn't deep.
- 6 When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots.

⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. So the plants did not bear grain.

⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It grew up and produced a crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted."

⁹ Then Jesus said, "Those who have ears should listen."

Mark 4: 26 – 29

The Story of the Growing Seed

²⁶ Jesus also said, "Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷ Night and day the seed comes up and grows. It happens whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens.

²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain. First the stalk comes up. Then the head appears. Finally, the full grain appears in the head.

²⁹ Before long the grain ripens. So, the farmer cuts it down, because the harvest is ready."

Message:

Let's talk about it.

Notice that these two passages are very similar. Jesus always had a story to tell. The stories that Jesus told are called parables. A parable is what you may call an earthly story, with a heavenly meaning. In both these stories, Jesus is talking about growth. Have you ever planted a seed? In our activity today, I will ask you to plant a seed and watch it grow. In many ways, these parables expand on Jesus' teaching of how the seed (the word of God) grows in our heart, (the good soil).

As we read and study the Bible, we are planting the seed in our heart. Our growth here is spiritual growth. We learn more about God and about the things that please Him. We learn how to accept His teaching so as to grow in grace and mercy. Are you growing? How do you grow? A sure way is to respect your parents and elders, respect yourself, respect your friends, love everyone.

In the first story, Jesus tells of the different conditions that affect the growth. Seed falling on rocks, the birds come and eat them up. Seeds falling on shallow soil, the seeds sprout, but there is not much growth, because the soil is so shallow. That is the person who neglects to read his Bible and pray. What about the seeds that fall among thorns? The thorns choked the plants. Is that you? Are you more influenced by the things among you? Are your friends leading you astray? Are you good soil? What fertilizer do you need? What weed killer do you need? How can you chase away the birds, or increase the depth of your soil?

Jesus tells of a man who scatters seed on the ground and then allows nature to take its course. We can believe that in the second story the seed was planted in good soil. A person who is reading the Bible every day is getting the nourishment required for growth. Read your Bible every day and you will grow. You will grow spiritually. Your trust in God will increase. You will be happy praising God.

The parable ends with a harvest. As soon as the grain is ripe, the crop is harvested. That is when you are strong enough to resist the bad influences around you. That is when you can say no to your friends who are asking you to do something or go somewhere that will not be pleasing to God. That is when you can resist the temptation to disobey your parents or your teacher. That is when you will have no hesitation to sing in the choir, to volunteer to teach in Sunday School, to read a lesson in church. Worshiping God will be your greatest pleasure.

To summarize the point of the Parable of the Growing Seed: "The way God uses His Word in the heart of an individual is mysterious and completely independent of human effort." May we be faithful in "sowing the seed," praying for a harvest, and leaving the results to the Lord!

Let us pray.

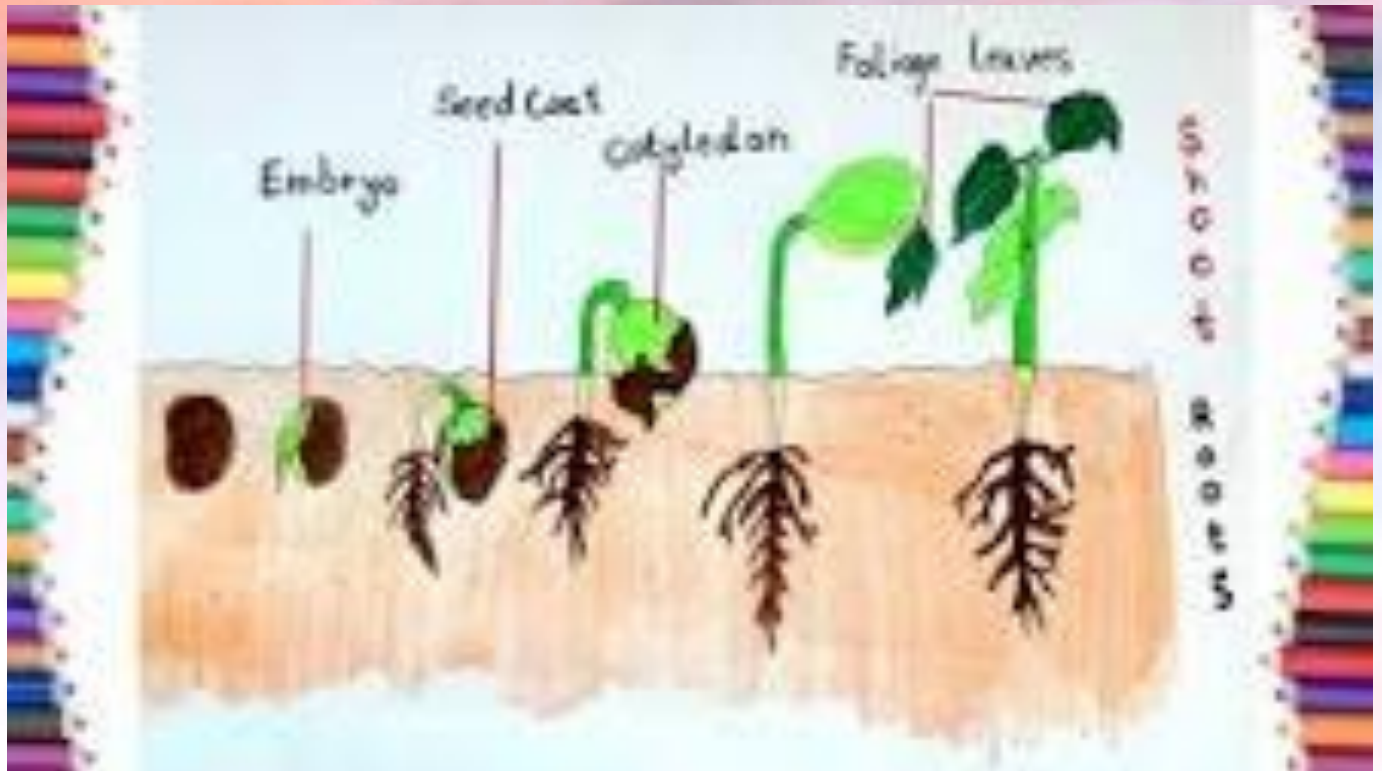
Dear God, I thank You for soil, one of Your great creations from the very beginning that we simply take for granted. I want to be like the good soil mentioned in the Parable of the Sower; the one that hears the Word, absorbs its message and understands its meaning and as a result brings forth an abundance of fruit; the kind that has lasting eternal value such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Just like water, soil and air produce good vegetation, so also the Bible, prayer, and worship produce godliness in the believer. Strengthen me to be faithful in doing my part. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.



Activity:

1. Plant a seed and watch it grow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kr-hgpJappQ>



BibleWise

Parable of the Sower

—Luke 8



Will It Grow?

Add the numbers in the box to get the code number for each letter. Then solve the puzzle.

Farmers plant seeds in all types of soils. Fertilizer is used in order to grow a good crop. But the question is still there—will it grow? Christians spread the Word of God to all types of listeners. What is necessary for the seed of faith to grow in each person's heart?

- A 17+34 = _____
- B 28+44 = _____
- C 39+57 = _____
- D 16+65 = _____
- E 62+37 = _____
- F 41+38 = _____
- G 24+33 = _____
- H 47+29 = _____
- I 24+58 = _____
- L 41+25 = _____
- N 23+15 = _____
- O 29+49 = _____
- P 22+11 = _____
- R 55+34 = _____
- S 29+16 = _____
- T 44+26 = _____
- U 13+14 = _____
- V 23+68 = _____
- W 23+19 = _____
- Y 36+25 = _____

 72 27 70 70 76 99 45 99 99 81 78 38

 57 78 78 81 43 78 82 66 45 70 51 38 81 45

 79 78 89 70 76 78 45 99 42 82 70 76 51

 38 78 72 66 99 51 38 81 57 78 78 81

 76 99 51 89 70 42 76 78 76 99 51 89 70 76 99

 42 78 89 81 89 99 70 51 82 38 82 70 51 38 81

 72 81 33 99 89 45 99 91 99 89 82 38 57

 33 89 78 81 27 96 99 51 96 89 78 33 (Luke 8:15)

