

# **FOLLOWING JESUS IN SCHOOL**

Part 1 of Fall Restart

The Cornerstone Youth Group. September 10, 2025.

## **PRAYER: THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,  
your name be honored as holy.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.  
And do not bring us into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

## **THE PARABLE OF SEED AND SOIL**

Parables are stories from everyday life that explain eternal realities.  
Jesus often taught in parables.

Mark 4:1-9 (CSB) Again, he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. 2 He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them,

3 “Listen! Consider the sower who went out to sow. 4 As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.

5 Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn’t have much soil, and it grew up quickly, since the soil wasn’t deep. 6 When the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away.

7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it didn’t produce fruit.

8 Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times.” 9 Then he said, “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen.”

## **THE CONTEXT OF THE PARABLE**

In Mark chapter three, Jesus encountered varied reactions to himself and his ministry: Some people rejected him because of their hard hearts, religious leaders plotted to kill him, curious crowds gathered to witness his miracles, and others accused him of being possessed by Satan or demons.

Jesus told the parable of the seed and sower to explain why people react in these ways. He used the commonplace example of a farmer sowing seed using the “broadcast method,” in which seed is spread widely, not accurately.

The four kinds of soil represent four kinds of reactions to Jesus, or four kinds of people, or four kinds of hearts.

# BREAK DOWN THE PARABLE

Soil	What Happens?	What Does It Mean?	Me?
Path	Birds eat it	Satan short-circuits faith	

## APPLY THE PARABLE

Discuss what Jesus taught about the four soils and how it applies to you.

1. What kind of soil describes how I want to live?
2. What kind of soil best describes my relationship to Jesus and his teachings today? What can I do to close the gap between what I am and what I want to be?
3. What are some things that make it hard to follow Jesus at school? What are the distractions, hardships, and obstacles students face?
4. What things might help me become a more faithful follower of Jesus and his teachings? Check as many as apply on the list of things that keep you focused on following Jesus. Add your own ideas at the bottom of the checklist.

	I know, believe in, and depend on the Gospel
	I have encouraging friends who are faithful believers
	I ask for prayers and support to be faithful
	I am open to Jesus and his teachings
	I read the Bible with focus daily
	I think about how to apply the Bible
	I choose to follow Jesus and his teachings even when it's hard
	I worship in prayers and songs
	I offer my life to God as a living sacrifice every day
	I pray spontaneously - when I feel the need
	I pray intentionally using a list
	I say no sin and yes to Jesus even under peer pressure
	I attend church services often
	I serve in ministry
	I participate in a Christian club at school

5. Write down one step I can take to grow more faithful to Jesus.  
When, where, and how can I take this step?
6. When I fail to follow Jesus the way I want to, what can I do to get back on track?
7. Pray for each other to grow more and more as faithful followers of Jesus.