



January 14, 2024, Parables in Mark

Mark 4:1-34

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of creation, by the Holy Spirit, make our hearts to be good soil, rich and nourishing, so that when we hear your word, it will grow in us and bear fruit for the sake of all that you have made. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow." Mark 4:2-3



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus tells a parable that compares God's word to scattered seed, and asks us to wonder if our hearts are good soil for growing it. But it also invites us be involved in the scattering.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What does it take for seeds to grow? How much do they depend on human intervention, and how much is by design?
- Sometimes we are not able to fully influence a situation—we can only plant a seed. When is the last time you planted a seed? Did you see it come to fruition?
- For the littles: How do you grow? God is helping you grow along with rest, play and healthy food!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May the God of growth help you find good soil for all the seeds you sow. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Pick a type of plant you'd like to grow. Find seeds, and plant those seeds—indoors if it's cold where you live. Examine the seed carefully, so you can truly appreciate how amazing it is that a plant comes from something so tiny!



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the Narrative Lectionary daily readings.

Sunday	Mark 4:1-34	Jesus Teaches Using Parables
Monday	Mark 4:10-20	The Sower Explained
Tuesday	Mark 4:21-25	More Parables
Wednesday	Mark 4:26-34	Kingdom Seeds
Thursday	Mark 4:35-41	Stilling the Storm
Friday	Luke 8:1-3	The Faithful Woman
Saturday	Mark 5:1-13	Jesus Heals the Outcast
Sunday	Mark 5:14-20	The Talk of the Decapolis