

Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children and young people, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 5, 24th April 2020

The Parable of the Sower



'A great crowd gathered. People were coming to Jesus from every town. He told them this story:

"A farmer went out to plant his seed. While he was planting, some seed fell beside the road. People walked on the seed, and the birds ate all this seed. Some seed fell on rock. It began to grow but then died because it had no water. Some seed fell among thorny weeds. This seed grew, but later the weeds

choked the good plants. And some seed fell on good ground. This seed grew and made 100 times more grain." Jesus finished the story. Then he called out, "Let those with ears use them and listen!"

Jesus' followers asked him, "What does this story mean?" Jesus said, "You have been chosen to know the secret truths of the kingdom of God. But I use stories to speak to other people. I do this so that: 'They will look, but they may not see. They will listen, but they may not understand.' *Isaiah 6:9*. "This is what the story means: The seed is God's teaching. What is the seed that fell beside the road? It is like the people who hear God's teaching, but then the devil comes and takes it away from their hearts. So they cannot believe the teaching and be saved. What is the seed that fell on rock? It is like those who hear God's teaching and accept it gladly. But they don't have deep roots. They believe for a while, but then trouble comes. They stop



believing and turn away from God. What is the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? It is like those who hear God's teaching, but they let the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life keep them from growing. So they never produce good fruit. And what is the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like those who hear God's teaching with a good, honest heart. They obey God's teaching and patiently produce good fruit.'

Luke 8:4-15, *International Children's Bible*. Above five photo credits: *Free Bible Images*

The Olive Tree

A dove brought an olive leaf to Noah to show the flood was over. The olive tree pictured is in the garden of Gethsemane, Israel and is about 2,000 years old. *Gethsemane* means 'olive press' and this is where Jesus experienced crushing pressure before Judas betrayed him. Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mt of Olives. In Romans 11 Paul talked about some people being like a wild olive tree that needed grafting. A mature olive tree can produce

about half a ton of olive oil a year! About 17.3 million tons of olives are produced annually especially from countries around the Mediterranean. Olives are healthy, they contain a rich source of oils, minerals and vitamins A, E, K and B. Olive leaves are on the flag of the United Nations and are a symbol of peace.



'Pursue at Least One Aspect of Natural History'

'Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.' Psalm 111:2, *ESV*
'Since "the works of the Lord" refer to his works of both creation and redemption, it seems to me that nature study and Bible study should go together. Many Christians have a good doctrine of redemption, but need a better doctrine of creation. We ought to pursue at least one aspect of natural history.'

John Stott *Birds Our Teachers*, page 10

My mother belonged to an orchid society. My mother-in-law always amazed me with her knowledge of flowers, including their Latin names! My wife and I pursue several aspects of natural history including identifying wild flowers as well as appreciating their beauty.

Below are some photos of wild flowers which I took in Israel.



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Pressed Flowers



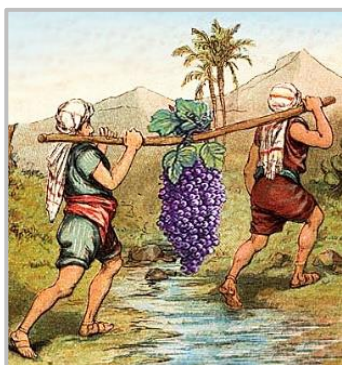
Picture Credit: Deng Yingyu, Wikimedia

Gather some fresh flowers from your garden. Flat-headed flowers are best. (Check on-line to see which wild flowers you are allowed to pick in your area such as daisies, meadow buttercups, cow parsley and dandelions.) Place the flowers between two sheets of tissue paper and carefully put inside the pages of a heavy book. Place some more books on top. Leave for 2-3 weeks. Then remove the dried flowers (perhaps with tweezers) and with a suitable glue

use them to make beautiful, eye-catching cards, bookmarks, pictures, etc. Leaves can also be pressed. See internet for more tips.

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The Grapevine



'In the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch of a grapevine. It had one bunch of grapes on it. They carried that branch on a pole between two of them.'

Numbers 13:23, *International Children's Bible*

'I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I remain in him, then he produces much fruit. But without me he can do nothing.'

John 15:5, *International Children's Bible*

Today we put wine in bottles, in Bible times they put wine in wineskins. Why would you only put new wine into a new wineskin? What do you think this parable means? Matthew 9:17.

Word Search

By David and Nancy Silcox

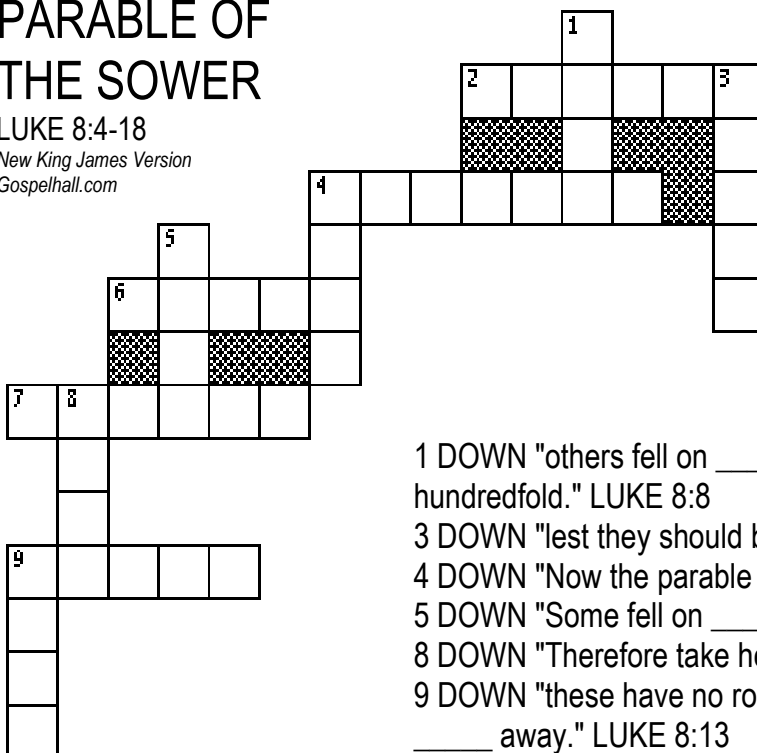
ANISE
APPLE
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CINNAMON
CORRIANDER
CUCUMBERS
DAISY
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DILL
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FLAX
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GARLIC
GRAPE
JUNIPER
LEEK
LILY
MINT
MUSTARD
MYRRH
NUTS
ONION
OLIVE
PALM
PAPYRUS
POMEGRANATE
SAGE
SYCAMORE TREES
THISTLE
WHEAT
WILD ROSE
WILLOW

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A	I	X	Z	W	O	L	L	I	W	R	X	C
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N	E	S	N	E	C	N	I	K	N	A	R	F

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

LUKE 8:4-18

New King James Version
Gospelhall.com



2 ACROSS "some fell among _____ and the thorns sprang up" LUKE 8:7
4 ACROSS "some fell by the _____ and it was trampled" LUKE 8:5
6 ACROSS "A _____ went out" LUKE 8:5
7 ACROSS "go out and are _____ with cares" LUKE 8:14
9 ACROSS "having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear _____ with patience." LUKE 8:15

1 DOWN "others fell on _____ ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." LUKE 8:8
3 DOWN "lest they should believe and be _____" LUKE 8:12
4 DOWN "Now the parable is this: The seed is the _____ of God." LUKE 8:11
5 DOWN "Some fell on _____ and as soon as it sprang up" LUKE 8:6
8 DOWN "Therefore take heed how you _____." LUKE 8:18
9 DOWN "these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation _____ away." LUKE 8:13

See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words:

'Why do you worry about clothes? Look at the flowers in the field. See how they grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers.'

Matthew 6:28-29, *International Children's Bible*

'Take Care of the Garden'

They are several types of garden which need taking care of.

To begin with we can think of our own gardens where lawns need mowing for example.

My home, garden and allotment come under the care of the Welwyn Garden City/Hatfield Borough Council. *Welwyn Garden City* originates from a man called Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928). He was not happy with the living conditions many people were living in at the time. Consequently, he took the benefits of a garden and successfully expanded them into a much bigger environment — to a 'Garden City'. His idea has been copied in scores of other towns and cities worldwide.



Trebah Gardens, UKgarden photos, Flickr

The different uses of gardens are mentioned several times in the Bible. For example, in connection with flowers, herbs, spices, vegetables, nuts, fruit and vines. Gardens in Bible times were usually protected by a wall or a hedge. The Bible also refers to the irrigation of gardens from a river or other water source. Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.

The most famous garden of all time is the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:15 says: 'The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden.'¹ In one of his books², in a chapter entitled *Creation Care*, John Stott brings this verse into the 21st century by writing that we should all help to 'conserve the environment'.

Interestingly, Isaiah also writes: 'If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness. . . . You will be like a well-watered garden.'³

¹Easy-to-Read Version; ²The Radical Disciple; ³Isaiah 58:10-11, New International Version

How to Plant a Special Garden

First, plant five rows of peas:

Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness and Prayer.

Next to them plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip, squash criticism and squash indifference.

Then five rows of lettuces:

Let us be faithful, let us be unselfish, let us be honest, let us be thankful and let us love one another.

And no garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for Church and turn up with a smile!

Three Gardens:

Eden: death in sin. Gethsemane: death for sin. Sepulchre: death to sin.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

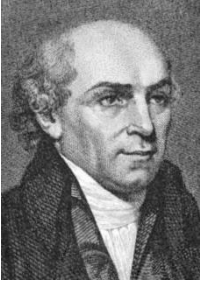
'Then Jesus told another story: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. A man plants the seed in his field. That seed is the smallest of all seeds. But when it grows, it is one of the largest garden plants. It becomes a tree, big enough for the wild birds to come and make nests in its branches." '

Matthew 13:31-32, *International Children's Bible*



Picture Credit: Novalis, Wikipedia

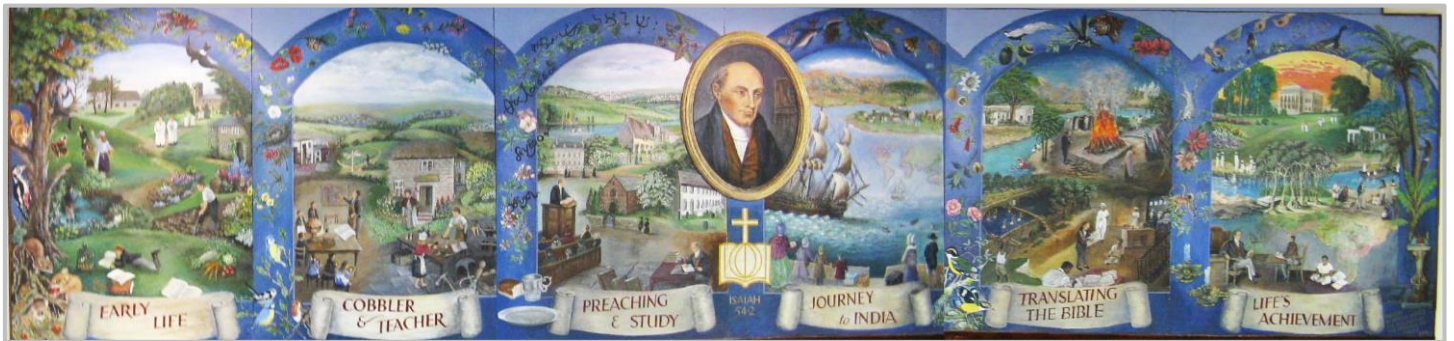
William Carey: Missionary and Botanist



William Carey

William Carey (1761-1834) was a British Christian Missionary. He is known as the 'father of modern missions'. He started many schools in India which taught reading, writing, 'accountancy' and Christianity. In 2014 Adventure Camp visited the William Carey Church and museum in Northamptonshire. In one of the Church rooms was this mural (below) — about 30 feet long. This depicted some of the accomplishments in his life. In the first section of the mural is a picture of William as a boy gardening.

This is when he developed a real interest in botany. He went on to found the *Horticultural Society of India*. One of his famous quotations is: 'Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God'.



Picture Credits: 1. 2. 3. & 4: Free Bible Images. 5. Placid Perez Bru, Wikimedia. 6. Fir0002/Flagstaffotos, Wikimedia. 7. hpgruesen, Pixabay.

1. Carob is an alternative to chocolate. What animals eat the pods? Luke 15:15-16
2. From this tree comes an aromatic resin which is made into what? Leviticus 24:7
3. Which tree was asked to reign, but replied, 'should I give up my fruit'? Judges 9:10-11
4. Which city had date palms in Bible times and still does today? Deuteronomy 34:3
5. Jeremiah saw a branch like this, which tree was it? Jeremiah 1:11
6. Which fruit was carved 400 times above some pillars? 1 Kings 7:42
7. The Hebrew name of this cereal is 'long hair'. Which cereal is it? John 6:9



Flower Arranging

Let one of your congregation leaders know if you would like to help with flowers and flower arranging in your Church.



The above four flower arrangements are by Nancy Silcox.

..... (Pictures not credited are presumed Public Domain.)

Any questions, etc, please contact the GCI Watford Church Council
or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.