

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
The Sower
from Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

**Share God's word everywhere;
you cannot predict listeners'
responses.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Scorch
- Lure
- Wither
- Yield
- Snatch
- Persecution

Jesus says, "Let anyone with ears listen!"
See 11:15 and Isaiah 6:10—there is a tension
between listeners being able to understand
(having ears) or not, and between whether
God wants them (us) to understand or not.

**Read the whole story together
in the Bible!**

Spark Story Bible pages 292-293

Spark NRSV Bible pages 1073-1074

Family Prayer

God, help us prepare our hearts for your
word like fertile soil where seeds grow into
strong plants. We reach for you like plants
toward the sun. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 In Jesus' parable, where do the seeds land?
- 2 Who reminds you of places the seed fell? In what ways does the person and place compare?
- 3 Why do you think the sower cast seed everywhere instead of carefully planting it in a prepared field?
- 4 Act out the parable: one person can sow the seed, others can be the seed that falls and grows or is eaten, withered, or choked.



Eye Spark

Watch for strong plants—in pots or gardens or pictures. Whenever you see one, say a quiet prayer for God to help you grow strong in faith.



Ear Spark

Listen for birds. Thank God for their song and pray that they eat pests and not good seed.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Create a heart-shaped space to plant some seeds: it could be a heart-shaped planter or a heart design in the garden fashioned from found rocks or sticks. Select the kind of plant you would like to nurture and plant the seeds. As you care for it together, remember to nurture God's word in your hearts.

For younger kids

Ask a parent if you may help by watering the plants.

For older kids

Make up a parable. You can begin it, "One day a (who?) (did what?)." Finish your parable with the words "Let anyone with ears listen!" Tell your parable to different people and see if they understand what it means.

