

The Sower. Week Two.

Luke 8 v 4-15 – taken from Youth Bible New Century Version 1993.

- 30 minutes session
- Over an hour session
- God Slot talk ideas – 10 mins

Teaching point:

To give young people a space to reflect for themselves about the state of their heart and what if anything they want to do about it. This session will require you to be more sensitive to the needs of your group, allow them to taste and see.

Equipment List:

A4 instruction sheets for each seed station
CD player and music
Large seeds, seed pot and soil enough for each person
Large map of your local area
Love Life Live Lent Booklets
Bibles

Intro:

This session is based on the parable of the sower and will take a little more preparation than session one and will require more equipment so give yourself at least 3 days to get yourself organised. Delegation may be the key here.

The session is based around four areas that you will set up around the room, we are calling them 'seed stations'. They stations need to be laid out so that four or five young people can visit them at any one time, they can be on the floor or on tables you can provide chairs or cushions what ever you feel is appropriate and what ever your space lends itself too. The young people will need at least 5 mins at each station and some will stay longer or only visit one or two stations this is fine its completely up to them how they use the time you give them, do stress this to them as you explain the session.

You could have some music playing in the back ground so that it's not totally silence as they move around the stations.

If you have never done anything like this before don't worry young people are quite good at dipping in and out of things and should soon get the hang of it but have a go, one of the most profound times a young person in my youth group ever had was through this type of session, it changed the way he looked and interacted with God completely. So don't write it off have a go and ask God to speak clearly into the lives of the young people you serve.

Opening mood setter (2mins)

Ask you group when was the last time they had time on their own to think, without any interruptions. Usually on the loo or in bed last thing at night! When was the last time they spent some time with God for no reason at all apart from just to be with him – not sure I could answer that question. When did they last spent time with God and thought about their relationship with Him?

Encourage them that today you are going to give them that chance but you are also going to give them a way in to help them think about their relationship with their creator.

Bible Study

The idea of seeds and growing things in the ground is rather alien to us these days and young people certainly have less idea still. So as you read the passage but either use the power point from the website and play it as a slide show or print off the pictures also found on the website, enlarging them if you can.

Slide show or picture montage (5mins)

Slide show timings:

Slide 1- blank

Slide 2/ picture 1: Verse 5

Slide 3/picture 2: Verse 6

Slide 4/ picture 3: Verse 7

Slide 5/picture 4: Verse 8

Slide 6/ picture 5: Verse 10b

Slide 7/picture 6: Verse 12

Slide 8/ picture 7: Verse 13

Slide 9/picture 8: Verse 14

Slide 10/ picture 9: Verse 15

Slide 11 ~ blank

Seed Stations: (20mins)

Explain to you group that the seed is the message of God v 11 and that their hearts are the different types of soil. They will now have some time to reflect which they feel their heart is.

Around the room you will have set up 4 ‘seed stations’ one representing each seed ask your group to start at which ever station they like and do what they are instructed to do on the A4 sheets. Encourage them that for the next 20 minutes as they move around the room that this is a time for them to spend with God on their own, that this is a time that God might choose to talk to them so be aware and listen to God as they move round.

The more they put into this the more they will get out of it. Play some quite Christian or classical music in the background so it is not totally silent.

You may think that your group may never do some thing like this so it may help to have leaders at the stations, not to intrude but to lend a hand and also to encourage

them to take it seriously and not disturb those that are engaging. You should also encourage your leaders to have a go themselves.

You want to give good space around each station if you can if that's a struggle see if you can use more than one room and put two stations in each room, or combine The Road and The Rocks together and do the same with The Thrones and The Good soil.

Station one: The Road

A4 instruction sheet
Map of the world – globe or picture book
Candle on a firm base.
Matches

Station two: The Rocks

A4 instruction sheet
Stones
Bucket of water
Towel
(Some of these words are taken from “The Labyrinth” produced by YFC)

Station Three: The Thrones

A4 instruction sheet
Newspaper sand Magazines
Scissors
Blue tack/or glue
Large sheet of paper on the wall e.g. lining paper.
Lots of ‘no entry’ signs

Station Four: The Good Soil.

A4 instruction sheet
Chocolate in bowls
Jelly Babies In bowls
Fruit – grapes etc in bowls
Jelly Baby shaped pieces of coloured paper
Pens

Once your group seem to have finished invited them back and ask them how they found that experience, especially if it's the first time they have ever done something like that. Did they feel God said anything to them, what were they thinking as they went round, has it left them with any thoughts? Encourage each person to share some thing but don't rush or push people into talking.

This experience maybe very profound for some and completely pass others by so it maybe difficult to know what to move into after this if you have time left in your session so what follows can be used to move people on or help them to continue to

think through what the stations have thrown up – it maybe a case of preparing one or two things and see which fits best at the time. Pray that God will guide you.

Action

Prayer Walk. (between 10mins - 30mins)

One of the actions for this week is to prayer walk around your local area, this maybe practically possible for you as a group or it may not but the principles of prayer walking are the same if you actually walk it or if you spend a large map of your area on the floor and virtually walk the streets.

N.B. if you are taking the group off the premises make sure you have consent from the parents check your own church Child Protection Policy for details.

- Your group have just been thinking about four different types of people's hearts so to start with begin with your church and pray for the people in it. Encourage your group to think of some one in your church who may fit into any of the seed groups and pray for them silently.
- Stand outside the church/look at the map and look at the immediate area if its filled with businesses do the young people use any of them – food places, libraries, shops etc if so ask them to pray for them thanking God for them and listening to God to see if they feel they should pray about anything in particular. If it is houses do any of them live there – pray for their families, they could share some thing they want prayer for if they like. Or pray for the people living in the houses, asking God to protect families, bring hope to those in need etc.
- Continue to look outwards or walk around your area and pray in small groups for the area – if you have a local paper get some copies and encourage people to look through them and cut things out to pray for.
- Finally ask them how they can be a better neighbour in their community – how can they be the good soil so God can use them to tell other people about Him.

Take action (5mins)

Talk about how the actions went last week who managed to do what and how did it go?

Take a look at the Love Life Live Lent booklet. Ask them which one of the actions they feel they could do this week; maybe as a response to some thing they have experience during the morning. Talk through any of them that they don't understand or are unsure about.

God's big hug (5mins)

Its important that no one goes home feeling that they are stuck as a seed that they don't; want to be, so this exercise is designed to send them out knowing God is pleased with them so over do that point.

Give them all a small plastic seed pot with some soil in it and a seed each – pick a large seed like a sunflower seed. Ask them to plant their seed in the pot and cover it over.

This is their promise from God, he loves each one of them so much that he doesn't want them left as a seed they don't want to be, eaten up, thirsty or choked, He wants them to grow into beautiful strong and healthy plants and He is already working on it and no matter how they feel about themselves God loves them.

Read them Philippians 1 v 6 – “God has begun a great work in you and will bring it to completion”.

You could give them this verse on pieces of paper that they can stick round their pots. They can take the pots home.

God slot.

Use the power point or pictures, read the parable through. If you feel you can give a testimony to your life fitting into any of those 'seed' groups then follow the story up with this explaining how great God is as he is making you more into the good soil day by day. Making the point that Jesus did that the soil represents our hearts and how we hear God's message.

Ask them which soil they feel their heart might be, have they even thought about it. Encourage them to come and chat to a leader if they feel that they would like to change the soil they are in.

Finish by praying thanking God that He never leaves us where we are but wants us all to have hearts that are full of good soil that grows 100 times more good fruit.