

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Theme:

The Seed of God's Word

Gospel:

Matthew 13:1–23

Main Message:

God plants His word in our hearts. When we listen to Him and follow Him, His word grows and bears good fruit in our lives.

1. Welcome & Gathering

(Gather the children calmly.)

Leader:

Good morning everyone.

Today Jesus tells a story about a farmer planting seeds.

It sounds like a simple story.

But Jesus is teaching us something very important.

He wants us to know that God's word is like a seed.

A seed can grow into something wonderful.

But it needs the right place to grow.

Today we will learn how we can make our hearts ready for God's word.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for speaking to us through Your word.

Help us to listen carefully today.

Help us to welcome Your word into our hearts.

Help us to grow in faith and love.

Amen.

2. Opening Conversation

Ask:

- Have you ever planted a seed?
- What did you plant?
- What does a seed need to grow?
- What happens if a plant is not looked after?

Allow answers.

Then say:

Seeds need good soil, water, sunshine, and care.

Jesus says our hearts are a bit like soil.

God wants His word to grow in us.

3. Gospel (Simplified)

Leader reads slowly and clearly:

Jesus told the people this story:

A farmer went out to sow seed.

Some seed fell on the path and birds ate it.

Some seed fell on rocky ground.

It began to grow but soon dried up.

Some seed fell among thorns.

The thorns grew and choked it.

But some seed fell on rich soil.

It grew and produced lots of fruit.

Then Jesus explained:

The seed is God's word.

People hear God's word in different ways.

The best hearts are like rich soil where God's word can grow and bear fruit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children:

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Reflection

Jesus tells us about four places where seeds landed.

Only one place helped the seed grow well.

The rich soil.

Why?

Because the seed was welcomed.

It had room to grow.

It was cared for.

Jesus says God's word is like that seed.

Every time we hear the Gospel, every time we pray, every time we learn about God, He is planting seeds in our hearts.

Built-In Activity 1: Seed Actions

Leader:

Let's pretend to be seeds.

Curl up small like a seed.

Now the rain falls.

Slowly grow taller.

Stretch up towards the sun.

Spread your branches.

Wonderful!

Then explain:

God wants His word to grow in us just like a seed grows into a plant.

What Is God's Word?

God's word is what He says to us.

We hear God's word:

- in the Bible
- at Mass
- in prayer
- through people who teach us about Jesus

God is always speaking to us.

The question is:

Are we listening?

Built-In Activity 2: Listening

Ask:

What makes listening difficult?

- Noise?
- Distractions?
- Talking?

Then explain:

Sometimes our hearts can become distracted too.

Jesus wants us to listen carefully to Him.

Good Soil

What makes good soil?

Good soil is open.

Good soil is ready.

Good soil receives the seed.

Jesus wants our hearts to be like that.

When we pray.

When we listen.

When we obey.

When we are kind.

God's word grows stronger inside us.

Built-In Activity 3: Good Soil or Not?

Ask:

Which helps God's word grow?

- Being kind? (Yes)
- Praying? (Yes)
- Listening at Mass? (Yes)
- Being selfish? (No)
- Ignoring God? (No)

Then explain:

We help God's word grow when we choose what is good.

Bearing Fruit

Jesus says the good seed produces fruit.

Not apples and pears!

The fruit Jesus means is:

- kindness
- patience
- love
- forgiveness
- helping others
- obeying God

When people see these things in us, God's word is bearing fruit.

Built-In Activity 4: Fruit of Faith

Ask:

What good things can Christians do?

Allow answers.

Then explain:

Every act of kindness is like fruit growing from God's seed.

Built-In Activity 5: God's Word Grows

Leader:

Let's say together:

God plants His word.

(Repeat)

I will listen.

(Repeat)

I will grow.

(Repeat)

I will bear good fruit.

(Repeat)

Quiet Prayer Moment

Leader:

Let us be quiet for a moment.

Jesus, thank You for Your word.

Pause.

Jesus, help me listen to You.

Pause.

Jesus, help Your word grow in my heart.

Pause.

Jesus, help me bear good fruit.

Pause.

Amen.

Living the Gospel This Week

Leader:

This week we can help God's word grow by:

- saying our prayers
- listening carefully at Mass
- reading a Bible story
- helping someone in need
- being kind at home and school

Built-In Activity 6: Grow This Week

Ask:

What can you do this week to help God's word grow?

Allow answers.

Children's Intercessions

Leader:

God plants His word in our hearts.

Let us pray together.

For the Church, that she may faithfully spread God's word throughout the world.

Lord, hear us.

For Pope Leo, Bishop Patrick, priests and deacons, that they may preach God's word with wisdom and joy.

Lord, hear us.

For children everywhere, that they may learn to know and love Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

For teachers, catechists, parents and grandparents, that they may help young people grow in faith.

Lord, hear us.

For people who find it difficult to believe, that God's word may touch their hearts.

Lord, hear us.

For the sick and the lonely, that God's love may bring them comfort and peace.

Lord, hear us.

For our families, that God's word may grow strongly in our homes.

Lord, hear us.

(Optional Hail Mary.)

Closing Prayer

Leader:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for planting Your word in our hearts.

Help us to listen to You.

Help us to follow You.

Help us to grow in faith.

And help us to bear good fruit every day.

Amen.

Sending Back

Leader:

Today we heard:

God's word is like a seed.

God plants it in my heart.

I will listen.

I will grow.

I will bear good fruit.

Let us return quietly to Mass.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Additional Optional Activities

7. Seed Detective

Best place: Opening Conversation

Leader:

Can anyone name different kinds of seeds?

- Sunflower
- Apple
- Bean
- Acorn

Then explain:

Tiny seeds can grow into amazing things.

God's word can do amazing things too.

8. What Does A Plant Need?

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

What does a plant need?

- Water
- Sunshine
- Soil
- Care

Then explain:

Faith grows when we pray, go to Mass, and stay close to Jesus.

9. Good Listener Challenge

Best place: Reflection

Leader whispers a simple message.

Ask children to repeat it.

Then explain:

Listening carefully helps us hear God's word too.

10. Weeds and Flowers

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

Which grows better if weeds take over a garden?

(None!)

Then explain:

Sometimes distractions stop God's word growing.

11. Heart Garden

Best place: Reflection

Leader:

Imagine your heart is a garden.

What flowers would Jesus like to grow there?

Possible answers:

- Kindness
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Patience
-

12. Fruit Basket

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

What fruit do you like best?

Then explain:

Jesus wants our lives to produce spiritual fruit such as kindness and love.

13. Farmer For A Day

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

Would being a farmer be easy?

(No.)

Why not?

Then explain:

Growing things takes patience.

Growing in holiness takes patience too.

14. Echo Prayer

Best place: Before Intercessions

Leader:

God plants—

Children: I will listen!

Leader:

God speaks—

Children: I will listen!

Leader:

God loves—

Children: I will grow!

Leader:

God calls—

Children: I will follow!

15. Saints Who Bore Fruit

Best place: Near Ending

Leader:

Saint Francis.

Saint Thérèse.

Saint Patrick.

Saint Mother Teresa.

All allowed God's word to grow in their hearts.

16. Growing Challenge

Best place: Living the Gospel

This week I will:

- Say my prayers every day
- Listen carefully at Mass
- Help someone at home
- Read a Bible story
- Be kind when it is difficult

Children choose one.

17. Final Memory Line

Best place: Sending Back

Repeat together three times:

"God plants His word. I will listen. I will grow."

A simple message children can remember throughout the week.