



# THE STORY @ HOME

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2024-2024)

**Lesson #2-15**  
**Mark 4:1-34**

## THIS WEEK

Jesus teaches about the kingdom of God through the Parables of the Sower, Mustard Seed, and others  
(Mark 4:1-34)

### STORY SUMMARY

Jesus begins using parables to share information about God's kingdom by telling about a sower who indiscriminately tossed seeds. Some seeds fell on a path, others on rocky ground, yet others among thorns, and a final batch into some good, rich soil where they thrived. He then goes on to explain the meaning of the parable: what is sown is God's word and there are many reasons that it does not thrive, but when it falls onto the good soil it bears an abundance of fruit.

Today I Learned....

### THE POINT

Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God.

### BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

#### ***What Are Parables?***

In the Bible, parables are usually short, fictional stories. They compare everyday objects or events to a surprising spiritual truth. Parables were common in ancient Greece, and included an easy-to-understand point to the story. Jesus' use of parables is different. There usually is not an easy-to-understand point. There are many different possible interpretations of Jesus' parables. Jesus' parables were designed to challenge the listener. This usually featured characters in the parable behaving in unexpected ways. This shows how the kingdom of God also operates in unexpected ways.

## Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

### Sunday—Read Mark 4:1-9

The Parable of the Sower.  
Act out this parable?

### Monday—Read Mark 4:10-20

The sower explained.  
Call or text someone who lives far away just to tell them Jesus loves you them and you do, too! It is that easy to sow a seed of love.

### Tuesday—Read Mark 4:21-25

More parables.  
Read these stories with a flashlight, camp lantern, or candle. Talk about the light.

### Thursday—Read Mark 4:35-41

Stilling the storm.  
Play in a container full of water while you hear this story.

### PRACTICE: SERVICE

After the seed of God's word has been sown in us, we are blessed to be able to sow the words in the world in which we live. Just like the sower in the parable, we toss God's words of love and promise to all who may be able to hear. Brainstorm together how you can share the good news of God's love to people you encounter this week, in big or small ways.

## Up & Coming @ Hope...

### MEN (& boys) ON ICE:

February 3 & 4 | Red Willow Bible Camp | Binford, ND

Men on Ice is an opportunity for men and boys of all ages to gather together, fish, and spend time in God's word. Registration fees have been waived for ages 18 and under, so register with your children or grandchildren today!

For more information and to register, visit [fargohope.org/men](http://fargohope.org/men).