

Why did Jesus Tell Parables?

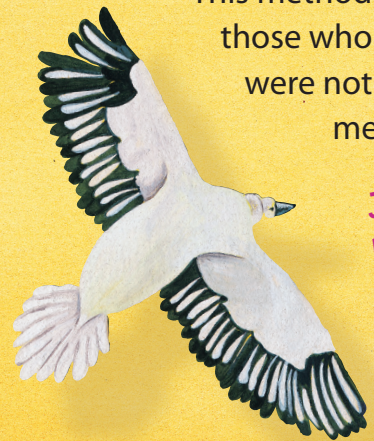
We all love to listen to stories. Perhaps you like to tell stories to your friends and family.

Jesus used powerful stories, called parables, to help his followers understand more about the truths of God.

In the parables he talked about everyday sights and activities to illustrate his teachings.

This method made his teaching easy to remember for those who were interested. Some unbelievers who were not interested, could not grasp the spiritual meaning of Jesus' parables.

**Jesus' stories are for us today too.
What kind of listener are you?**



The Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus told a story to show how people listen differently to God's Word.

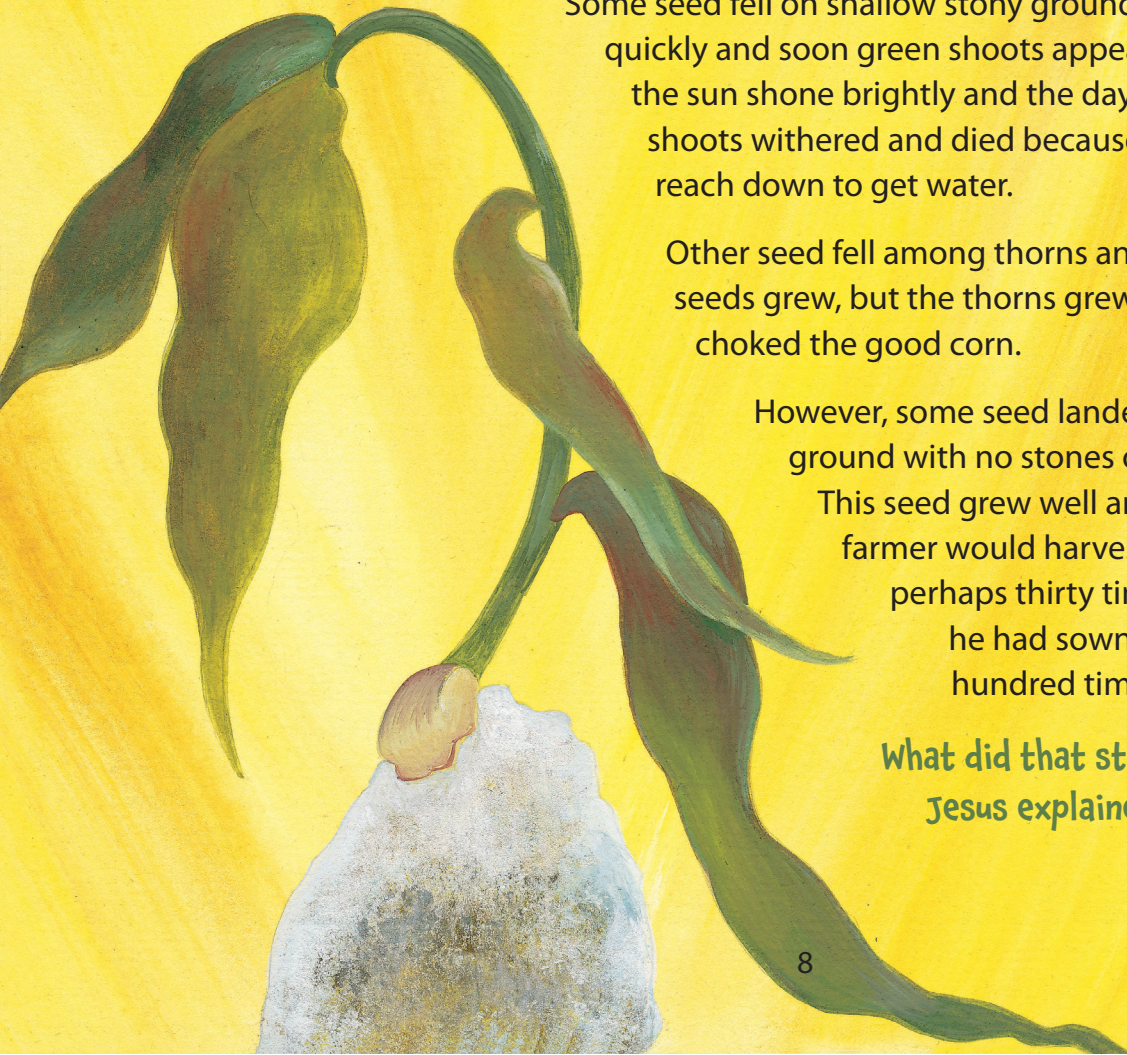
A farmer went out to sow seed in his field, throwing handfuls of seed to the right and to the left. Some seed fell on the pathway. Soon the birds came and ate it all up.

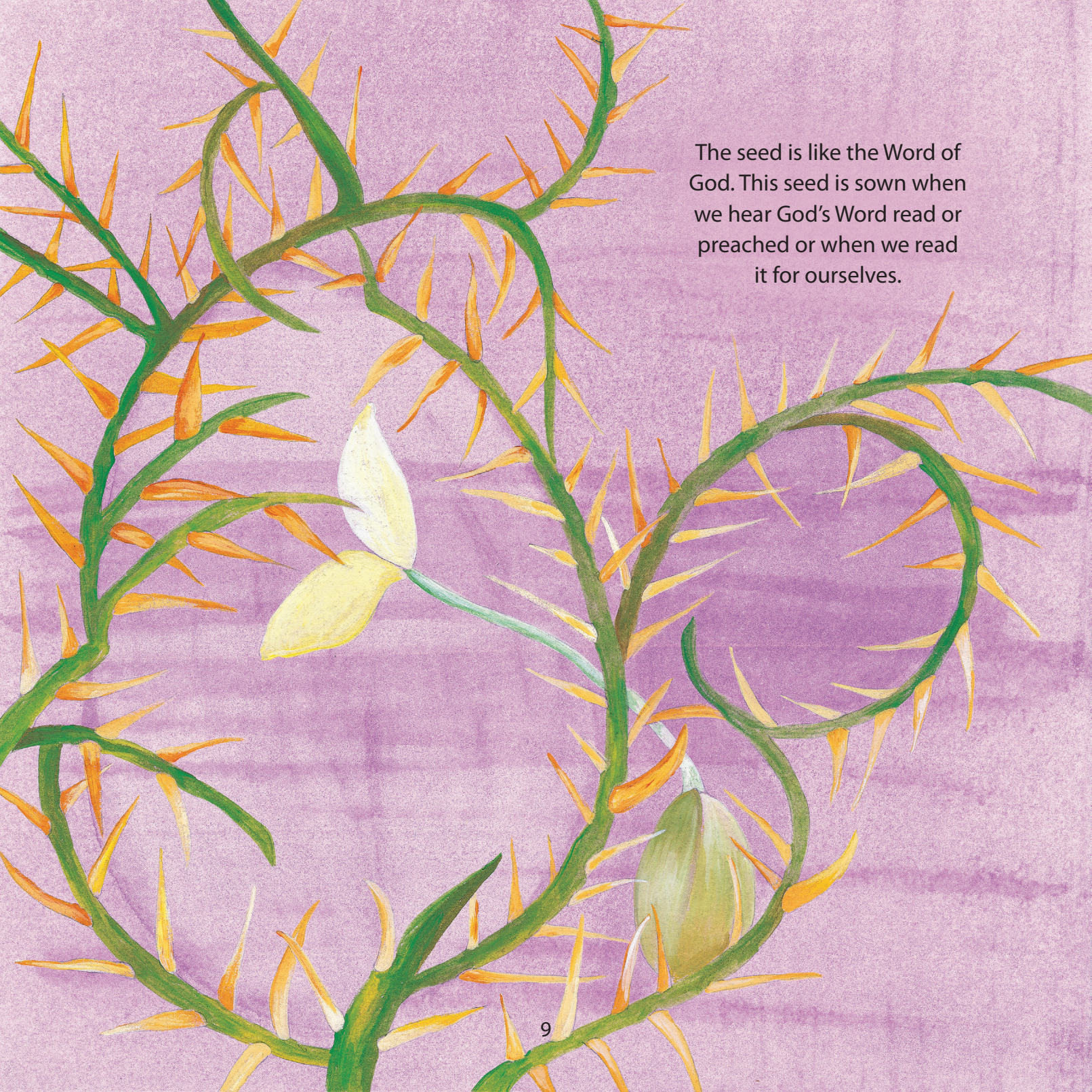
Some seed fell on shallow stony ground. The seeds grew quickly and soon green shoots appeared. However, when the sun shone brightly and the day became hot, these shoots withered and died because their roots could not reach down to get water.

Other seed fell among thorns and weeds. These seeds grew, but the thorns grew too and soon choked the good corn.

However, some seed landed on good fertile ground with no stones or thorns or weeds. This seed grew well and eventually the farmer would harvest his corn, reaping perhaps thirty times as much as he had sown, or even sixty or a hundred times as much.

**What did that story mean?
Jesus explained it all.**





The seed is like the Word of God. This seed is sown when we hear God's Word read or preached or when we read it for ourselves.