

## PLANTING FOR A HARVEST

### **Characters:**

NARRATOR

FARMER

FIRST SEEDS (3 people)

SECOND SEEDS (2 people)

THIRD SEEDS (one or two people)

FOURTH SEEDS (one or two people)



**Narrator:** Once upon a time, there was a farmer who went out to plant his seeds. He thought to himself “*I’m going to have a good harvest this year because I have a lot of good seeds to sow.*” So the farmer prepared his seed bag and made his way out to the field. Let’s see how the farmer went...

*(Farmer enters carrying a seed bag.)*

**Farmer:** What a great day to plant my seeds. *(He tosses seeds on the ground.)* Just look at all these lovely seeds shining in the sunlight.

**First Seeds:** *(Tumble on the ground where farmer indicated.)*

**Narrator:** But, he wasn’t such a smart farmer...

**Farmer:** Hey! Who’s not such a smart farmer?

**Narrator:** I’m afraid that’s you my friend.

**Farmer:** And why is that?

**Narrator:** Just look where you threw those seeds. How can you expect anything to grow there?

**Farmer:** Well, I guess I shouldn’t have thrown them on the path. Do you think that they will grow there?

**Narrator:** Nope. They will just lie there until the birds come and eat them. Didn’t you learn anything at farmer’s school?

**First Seeds:** Birds? Eat them? We’re going to get eaten by birds? No way! I’m out here. Me too! Hey, wait for me! *(They exit.)*

**Farmer:** Hmm. That didn’t work too well. I need to throw some seeds where there is no path. Aah. This area looks good. Maybe I’ll toss some over here, and over here. *(Tosses seeds in two different spots.)*

**Second Seeds:** (*Tumble to the ground in one spot that the farmer indicated.*)

**Third Seeds:** (*Tumble to the ground in the other spot that the farmer indicated.*)

**Farmer:** How's that? Do I know how to farm or what? (*Looks to Narrator for approval.*)

**Narrator:** (*Shaking his/her head.*) I'm afraid the answer is "what". Sorry, you did it wrong again.

**Farmer:** But there IS dirt there. (*Points to second seeds.*)

**Second Seeds:** (*Claw at ground.*) Yeah, nice job farmer. There's nothing under this soil but rock. How do you expect us to grow on this hard rock? It's too hard and there's no food here.

**Narrator:** Yes there is dirt there, but when the sun shines on those seeds, because they have no soil for roots, they will dry up and wither away.

**Second Seeds:** Water! Water! (*One seed looks towards audience.*) If you don't have water we'll accept Coke or Pepsi. (*Mimic dying of thirst and fall over. Then exit.*)

**Farmer:** So what is wrong with over here? (*Points to third seeds.*) There aren't any stones here, and the birds can't get them because they're protected by these big prickly plants. The birds won't go in there.

**Narrator:** That is where the thorns are. Those seeds can't survive there either.

**Farmer:** Why not?

**Third Seeds:** (*Mimic being pricked by thorns.*) Ouch! Ouch! I'm a plant, not Swiss cheese. What do you think I am, a pin cushion? Ouch, just forget it. (*Exit.*)

**Farmer:** I give up. You tell me where I'm supposed to plant the seeds.

**Narrator:** Well, you can start by looking for a place where your seeds can put down deep roots, and where there aren't other plants that will choke them out.

**Farmer:** (*Searches the ground, tests the soil until he finds a place.*) I've got it! Right here. This spot has good soft soil and it doesn't have any thorns. (*He throws the seeds down.*)

**Fourth Seeds:** (*Tumble to the ground in the spot where the farmer indicated.*)

**Farmer:** (*Looks at Narrator.*) Right?

**Fourth Seeds:** (*Stretch out as though sunbathing.*) What a great spot! Waiter! I'll have a large water with a twist of fertiliser, please. Make that a double. Can I have another bottle of suntan lotion, I'm almost done.

**Narrator:** Exactly. Now because you have taken the time and care to plant your seeds in the right soil, they will grow, and you will have a big harvest.

**Farmer:** Cool! If I would have known that before, I could have had a much bigger harvest.

**Narrator:** You know, it works the same way when people hear God's word. If people hear God's word, understand it, make it a part of themselves, and focus only on God, then they will grow like the seeds in the good soil.

**Farmer:** Wow! And to think it all started with Spring planting. You know, with your talent for words and my ability to raise a crop, we have the beginnings of a beautiful friendship. (*They exit.*)

### **Mark 4:3-20**

<sup>3</sup> Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow:

<sup>4</sup> And it happened, as he sowed, that some fell by the way side, and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

<sup>5</sup> And some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

<sup>6</sup> But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

<sup>7</sup> And some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

<sup>8</sup> But other seed fell on good ground, and yielded a crop that sprang up and increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

<sup>9</sup> And he said to them, He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

<sup>10</sup> But when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parable.

<sup>11</sup> And he said to them, To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but to those who are outside, all things come in parables:

<sup>12</sup> so that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest they should turn, and *their* sins be forgiven them.

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?

<sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word.

<sup>15</sup> And these are the ones by the way side, where the word is sown. And when they hear, Satan comes immediately, and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. <sup>16</sup> These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

<sup>17</sup> and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

<sup>18</sup> Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,

<sup>19</sup> and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

<sup>20</sup> But these are the ones sown on good ground; those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.