

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

The Parables: The Sower and the Seed

Hear the Word. Trust the King. Bear Fruit.

Matthew 13:1-23 | Sermon preached September 13, 2026

A five-day guide to help families read Scripture, talk together, pray, and respond to the Parable of the Sower with one clear truth each day.

Memory Verse

MATTHEW 13:23 (ESV)

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

How to Use This Guide

Choose a consistent time, keep the gathering simple, and let the youngest child participate. Each day includes a short passage, a few questions, one family truth, and prayer. You do not need to ask every question; use the ones that best fit your children.

A Simple Rhythm

- Read: Let family members take turns reading the passage aloud.
- Talk: Ask questions that help everyone observe and understand the text.
- Remember: Repeat the day's Family Truth together.
- Pray: Respond to God's Word with praise, confession, thanksgiving, and requests.

THEME FOR THE WEEK

Hear the Word. Trust the King. Bear Fruit.

DAY 1

Christ Is King

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 4:17 and Psalm 24:1

Jesus announced that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. A kingdom involves a king and his authority. Christ's kingdom is His rule, reign, and work. Psalm 24 reminds us that the earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord.

Talk About It

1. Younger children: What is a king? What authority does a king have?
2. Older children and teens: What does Jesus mean when He says that the kingdom of heaven has come near?
3. Everyone: If Jesus is King, what belongs to Him?
4. What is one area in which our family can more gladly obey our King this week?

FAMILY TRUTH

Jesus is not simply someone we add to our lives. Jesus is our King. Everything belongs to Him - including us.

PRAY

Praise Jesus for being the good, holy, sovereign King. Ask Him to help your family gladly obey Him.

DAY 2

The Seed Is God's Word

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 13:3-9

If possible, hold a few seeds while you read. Talk about how something tiny can eventually produce a plant and much more seed. In the parable, the sower spreads the seed broadly across the field.

Talk About It

1. What did the sower scatter?
2. Did the sower scatter seed in only one tiny spot?
3. What happened to the seed in each kind of place?
4. What does Jesus later tell us the seed represents?
5. How can our family make room to hear God's Word carefully?

FAMILY TRUTH

God sends His Word into the world. We are called to hear it, believe it, and obey it.

PRAY

Thank God for giving us His Word. Ask Him to give every person in your family ears that truly hear.

DAY 3

Hearing and Understanding

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 13:10-17

There is a difference between hearing a sound and understanding its meaning. Someone can sit through a sermon, hear Bible verses, and memorize answers without truly understanding and believing. Spiritual understanding is a gracious gift from God.

Talk About It

1. Why is it a blessing to understand God's Word?
2. Who must help us understand spiritual truth?
3. What should we do when we do not understand something in Scripture?
4. Why should understanding God's Word make us humble rather than proud?

FAMILY TRUTH**We need God to give us eyes that see and ears that hear.****PRAY**

Ask the Holy Spirit to help each person in your family understand, believe, and obey God's Word.

DAY 4

Fruit Shows the Root

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 13:18-23 and Galatians 5:22-23

A healthy fruit tree eventually produces fruit. In the same way, when God is at work in someone, His work eventually becomes visible. Fruit grows in different measures and at different rates, but living faith does not remain permanently fruitless.

Talk About It

1. What kind of fruit does the Holy Spirit produce?
2. Which fruit do you think God has been helping you grow in?
3. Which fruit is difficult for you?
4. Why does bearing fruit not mean that Christians never struggle or sin?
5. How does our fruit bring glory to Jesus rather than to us?

FAMILY TRUTH

Changed hearts produce changed lives. We do not obey so that God will save us; we bear fruit because God has graciously worked in us.

PRAY

Let each family member choose one fruit of the Spirit and ask God specifically for growth in that area.

DAY 5

Bearing Fruit Through Hard Times

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 13:23 and James 1:2-4

Good soil still experiences hot sun and difficult growing conditions. Christians also experience suffering. The difference is not that God's people never struggle. The difference is that God continues working in them through the struggle.

Talk About It

1. What happens to plants during hot, dry weather?
2. What kinds of 'hard weather' do people experience in life?
3. How can God use difficult circumstances to grow us?
4. What does trusting Jesus look like when life hurts?
5. Where have we seen God's faithfulness during a hard season?

FAMILY TRUTH

Hard circumstances do not stop our King from working. He can use trials to grow repentance, endurance, faith, and Christlike character in His people.

PRAY

Thank God for His faithfulness in easy and difficult seasons. Pray for someone your family knows who is suffering.

Family Challenge

HEAR. TRUST. BEAR FRUIT.

This week, each family member chooses one simple way to respond to God's Word:

HEAR

Spend intentional time listening to or reading Scripture.

TRUST

Identify one worry or situation that needs to be entrusted to Christ the King.

BEAR FRUIT

Choose one specific act of obedience, kindness, repentance, service, or gospel witness.

At the end of the week, talk together about what God taught you. Celebrate evidence of His grace without turning the challenge into a competition.

Prayer for the Week

Father, You are holy and sovereign, and all creation belongs to You. Thank You for sending Your Word and for revealing Your kingdom through Your Son. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Keep our hearts from being hardened, shallow, or crowded by the cares of this world. Cause Your Word to take deep root in us. Lead us to repentance and faith, and by Your Spirit produce fruit that reflects the character of Christ. Help us endure when following You is difficult. May our home increasingly show that Jesus Christ is King, and may we spend our lives worshiping Him and proclaiming His gospel. Amen.