



Quarter 2 — Lesson 24



Year 3—Quarter 2: The Church is God's Idea

Secrets of Serving

Lesson Introduction

Jesus told us to be treasure hunters. In **Matthew 6:19-34** he exalts spiritual “treasure.” Then, in **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** he explains the story of the seed and the four soils.

We want to discover that rather than investing our time in pursuits that eventually fade away, we can commit our lives to God and invest in something eternal.

(Prepare a week ahead of time by cutting a sponge into the shape of a heart. Flatten it out by letting it dry under something very heavy.)

Show the dried sponge and ask: How is this dried sponge like somebody's real heart? How might busyness make a person's heart hard?

Now dip the sponge into water.

Say: Sometimes when we allow our lives to become so busy that we have no time to reflect or relax, our hearts become hard like this sponge. **Ask:** How was the way the sponge changed like the way God can change our hearts when we commit to him?

Yes, God can soften our hearts, and when he does, we can grow spiritually. Jesus used a story about four soils to represent different people's relationship to God. We are going to break up into our **huddle groups** for you to explore Jesus' story. See what you can discover in your group and we'll all report back in a few minutes.

(See the lesson supplement for huddle group discussion questions.)

Power Point

With God's help, we can all improve our serve.

Treasure Hunt: Hidden Secrets

In this unique treasure hunt, your class will follow clues that lead them to discover ways to serve. Divide the class up into four teams. Give them creative names. For example, you could name each one a color, such as, red team. And then, you COULD use “Spies,” “Detectives,” “Investigators,” and “Agents.” Plant “clues” around the room. The clues for each team should be on their own color of paper. Lead each group to discover such things as: board needs cleaning, overheads need alphabetizing, floor needs vacuuming, or art table needs rearranging. Summarize with a discussion of ways we all can serve that show God's love to others



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 13:23 “But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.”



Secrets of Serving

Huddle Group Discussion Questions

“The Hard Ground”

(Matthew 13:1-4)

1. What does Jesus say the hard ground represents (Verse 19)? What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: Pharaoh (Exodus 10:24-29) and King Agrippa (Acts 26:24-28)
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like hard ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

“The Thorny Ground”

(Matthew 13:1-4)

1. What does Jesus say the thorny ground represents (Verse 22)? What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: King Solomon (1 Kings 10:23-25) and the rich man (Luke 18:18-25)
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like thorny ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

“The Rocky Ground”

(Matthew 13:5-6)

1. What does Jesus say the rocky ground represents? (Verses 20-21) What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: King Saul (1 Samuel 15:17-23) and Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:1-6).
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like rocky ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

“The Good Ground”

(Matthew 13:8)

1. What does Jesus say the good ground represents (Verse 23)? What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: Daniel (Daniel 6:1-5) and Joseph (Genesis 39:21-23)
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like good ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

Take-Home

Year 3 Lesson 24 — Secrets of Serving

Summary

Bible Passages:

Mt. 13:1-23

Main Point:

With God's help, we can all improve our serve.

Discuss:

Q: Jesus told a story about four soils. Name the four types of soil.

A: The path, rocky places, among thorns, good soil.

Q: How much fruit did Jesus say the good soil produced?

A: 100, 60, or 30 times as much.

Q: In Jesus' story, what does the seed stand for?

A: God's Word (The message about the Kingdom)

Explore the Bible

Read: Matthew 13:1-23 (*The Parable of the Four Soils*)

Explain that Jesus that Jesus often taught people using stories called parables, which have special meanings.

Discuss: Ask your family if they have ever planted seeds or seen a garden. Discuss what plants need to grow (*good soil, water, sunlight*).

Emphasize: Help your family to understand the importance of serving others with a good heart.

Family Activity

- **Drawing:** Ask your child to draw a picture of themselves serving others. It could be helping a friend, cleaning up, or sharing.
- **Sharing:** Let your child share their drawing and explain how they can be like the good soil by serving others with a good heart.

Apply and Pray

Review: Recap the parable and the different types of soil. Emphasize that we want to be like the good soil, always ready to serve others.

Prayer: End with a simple prayer asking God to help us be like the good soil, always ready to serve and help others.