

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,
sharing that love with each other and with the world.

The parable of the sower: Sunday 12th July

Today's Gospel is one of Jesus' parables. Parables are a special kind of story where lots of the parts of the story are a kind of code for something else. In other words; a teaching story. Jesus' codes were all about the Kingdom of God and the love of God the Father.

Jesus told lots of parables during his years of teaching the Good News. He used stories about everyday things so that the people would be interested in what he was saying. Sometimes people understood exactly what he was telling them. Other times, like in today's Gospel story, even Jesus' disciples needed a bit of extra help to understand the message.

Like we do in children's liturgy, you might want to light a candle and make the sign of the cross together to show that this is a special time you are saving for God and Jesus.

We say sorry

When we are at Mass together and at Children's Liturgy, we usually take a moment to think about when we have made wrong choices or done things that have hurt other people.

You would do this silently, you could each say sorry for something you would like God's forgiveness for or you could use this prayer

Lord, for the times when we haven't listened to your word and gone our own way instead

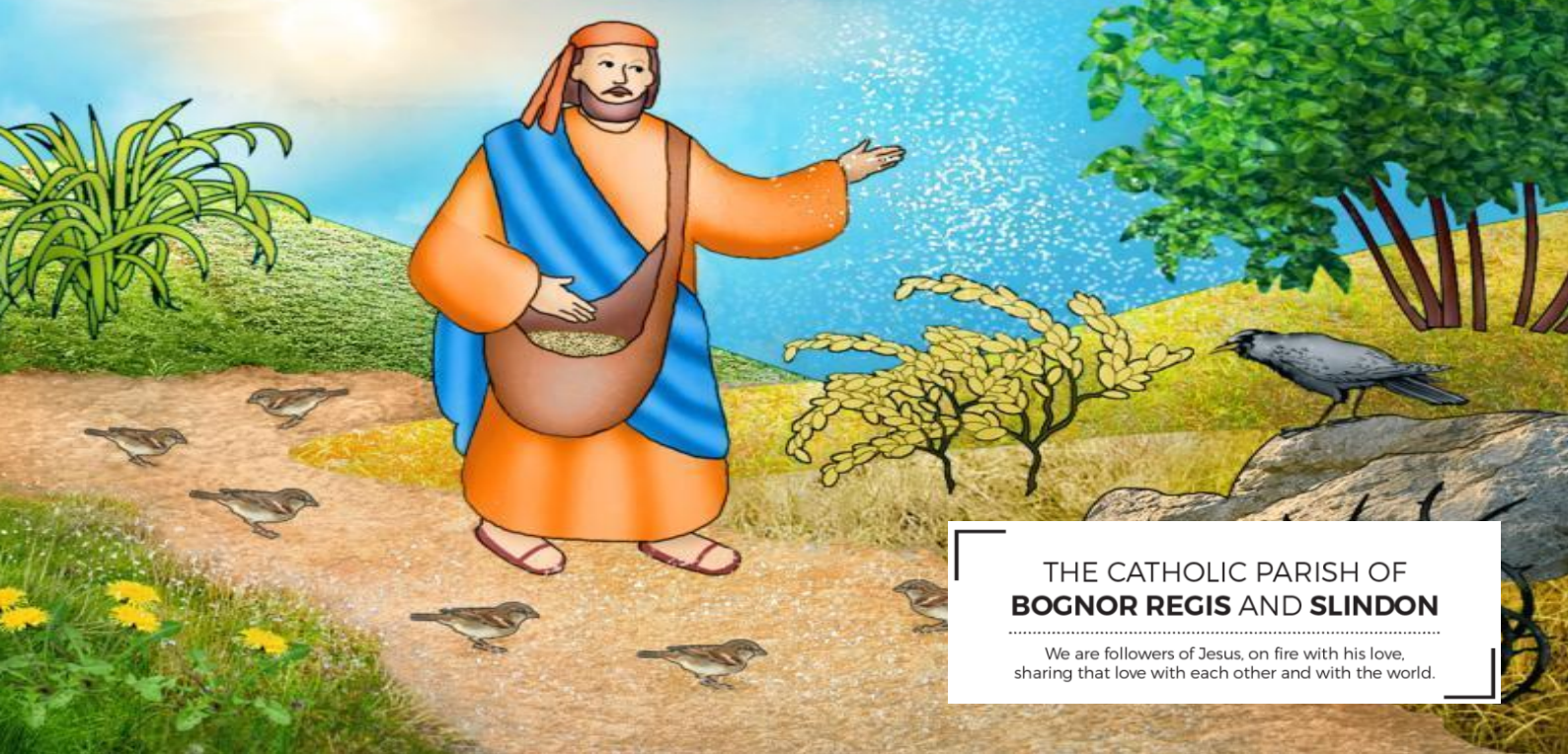
Lord, have mercy

For the times when we have used our words to say unkind things to others

Christ, have mercy

Lord, open our ears so that we will really hear you and our eyes that we will see you in the world around us

Lord, have mercy



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The Gospel is Good News! Welcome it with an **Alleluia!** You could sing or just say it loud and clear with a smile on your face 😊

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 13: 1-7

Jesus went out beside Lake Galilee, where he sat down to teach. Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat, while the people stood on the shore. Then he taught them many things by using stories.

He said: “A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil was not very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots. “Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants. But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants produced a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as was scattered. “If you have ears, pay attention!”

The gospel of the Lord.

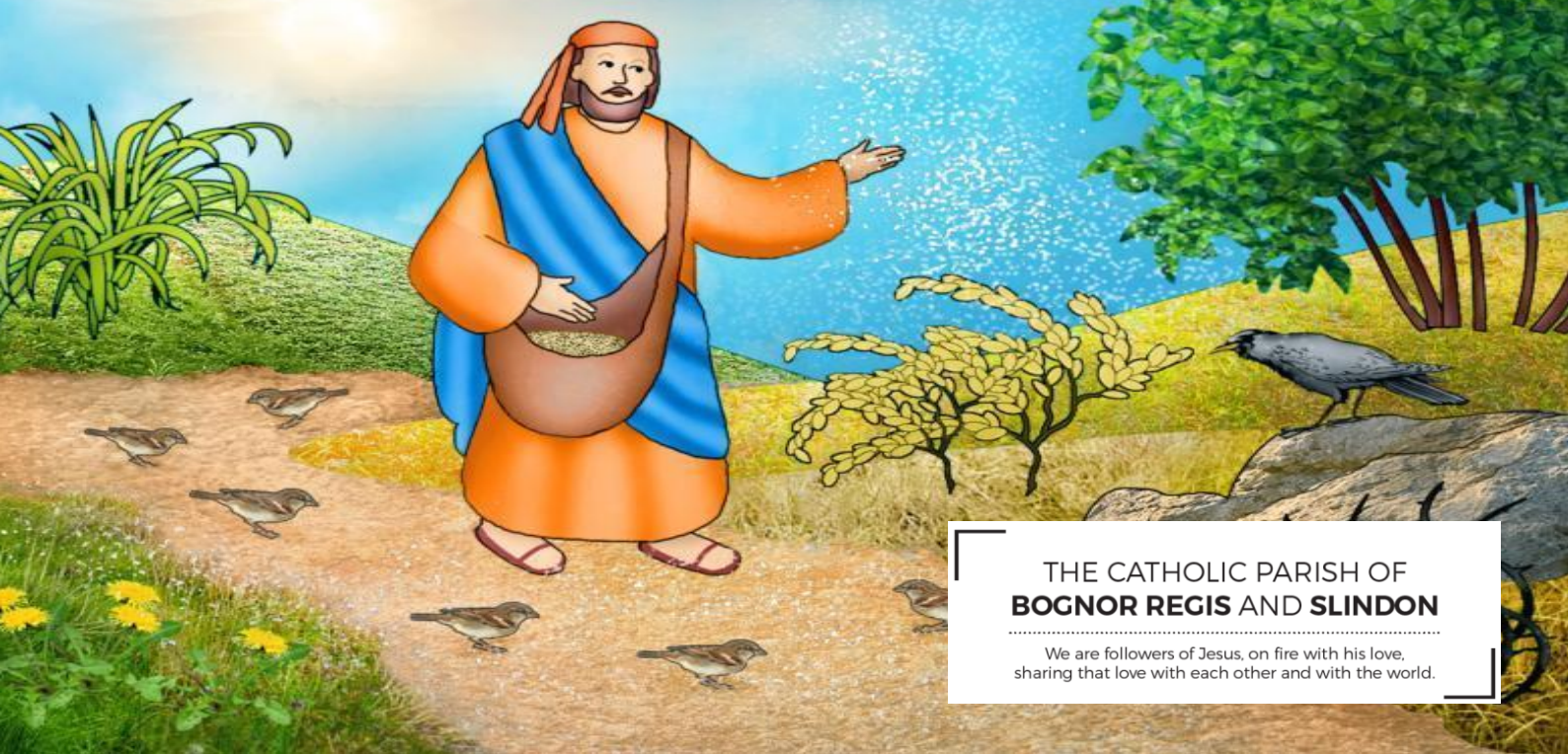
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Or, you can listen and watch the Gospel story in puppets here

Kidz church: The parable of the sower <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6LwEW8jX9A>

Talk about the Gospel story together

You could use the ideas in this table to think together about the meaning of the parable and talk about how sometimes we can all be like each types of soil.



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Parable	Meaning	Significance for today
A man went out to sow grain.	The man represents God and the seed is His message.	Just as a planted seed starts to grow, the word of God starts to deepen and grow within a person.
Some seed fell on the path and the birds ate it.	The birds represent Satan. The seed on the path represents people who hear the message, but it is immediately lost.	There are people who don't live a good Christian life because they are focused on other things.
Some seed fell on rocky ground where there was little soil. The seed soon sprouted, but when the sun came up it burnt the young plants.	The seed on the rocky ground represents people who respond with initial enthusiasm, but the word of God does not sink in deep. When persecution or hard times (represented by the sun) come along they give up at once.	People cannot commit to the Christian lifestyle. They are initially attracted but give up when the going gets tough.
Some seed fell among thorn bushes which grew up and choked the plants.	The thorn bushes choke the message of God. It is heard, but people's concern for riches and their worries about life cause the plants to die.	Some people are too concerned with what others think and they worry too much. They may be jealous, angry or concerned with materialism.
Some seed fell on good soil and the plants produced corn.	Good soil represents people who hear the message and live it in their lives.	Some people have strong faith and remain dedicated to a Christian lifestyle, even when things are difficult.

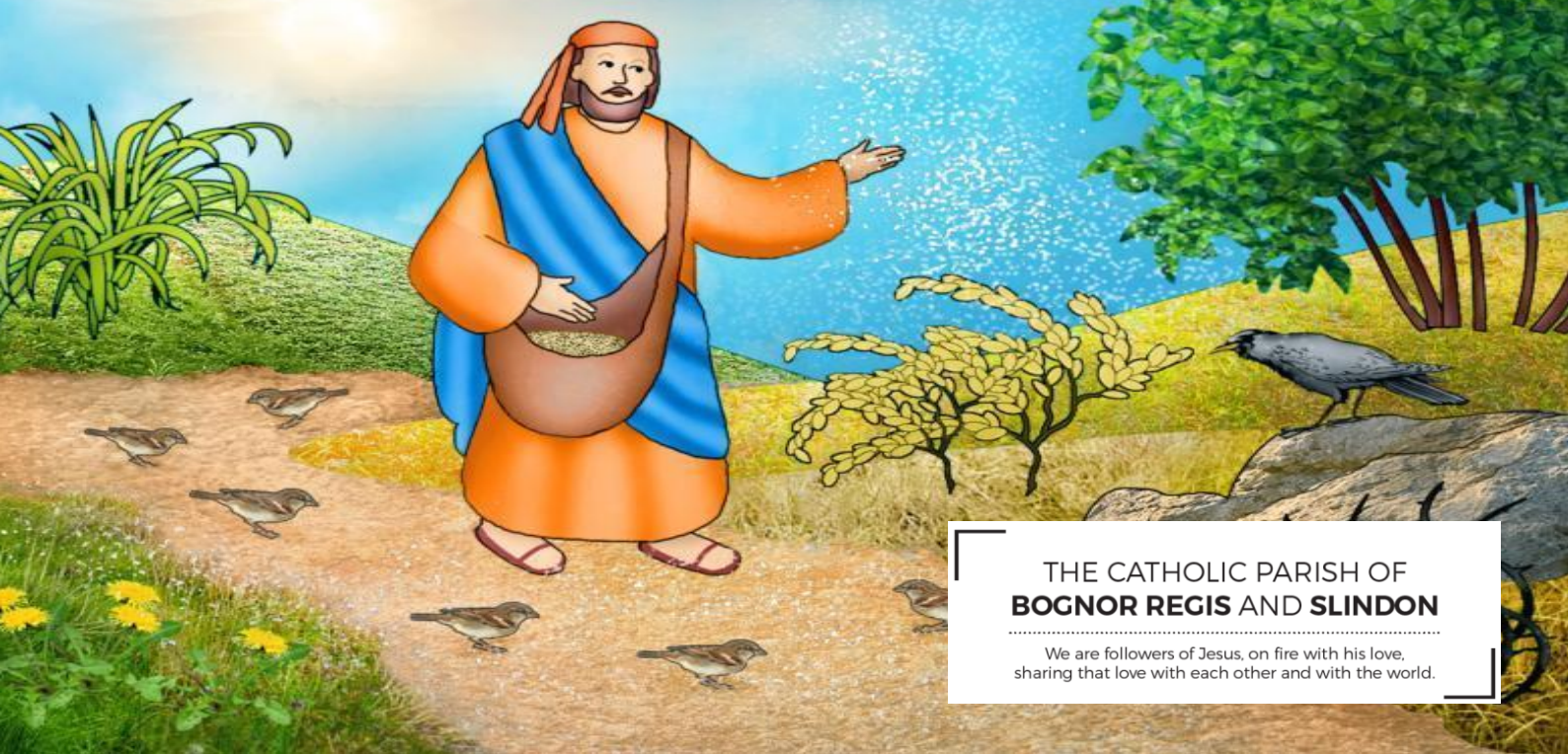
From BBC Bitesize Website: The Kingdom of God

If you are talking together about the Gospel, start with someone asking

What did you hear?

This might be a word, a sentence or an idea of the meaning of the whole story. Jesus' word speaks to us in different ways.

Think and talk together about what we need to be like the good soil; how do we keep our faith strong and stay close to God? When bad things happen, what helps us to keep following Jesus?



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It might be reading the bible, praying with family, at school or on your own. It might be spending time with other people who follow Jesus. What else?

Pray together

We pray for the Church all over the world. We especially pray for Christians in places where other people think it is bad to believe in Jesus.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

We pray for people in the world who do not have enough to eat. Help us to be generous when we can in sharing what we have.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

We pray for all farmers, that their crops may be enough to make a living and to feed the world. We thank you Lord for all their hard work and care in sowing and harvesting.

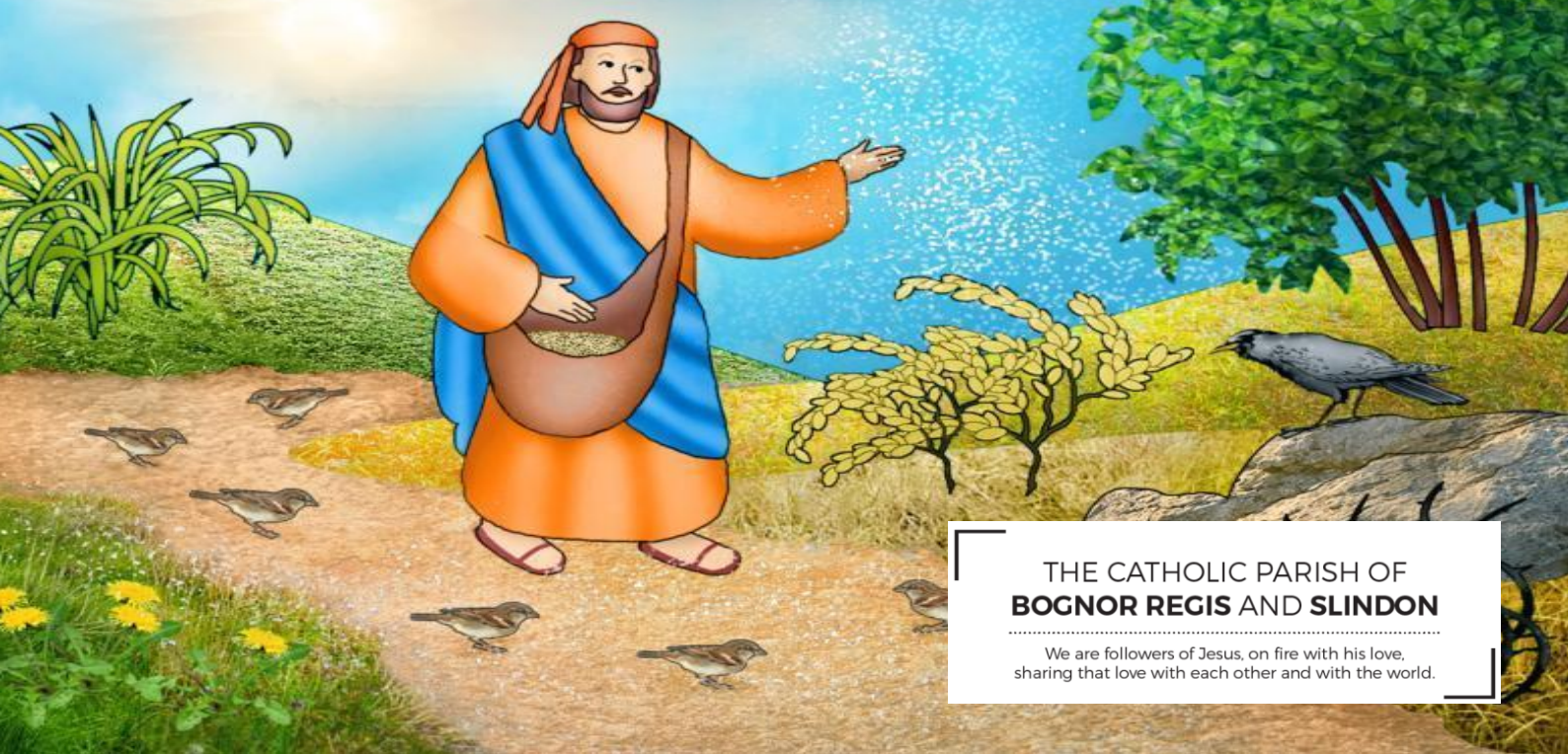
Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

We pray for people in our family, school, parish, community who are unhappy for any reason. Give us the courage to smile and offer support.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Lord, we ask your word to grow in our hearts and that your kingdom will come. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

Activities



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Make a seed collage: Write or draw something from today’s Gospel story and, using all kinds of different seeds (you could also use small pasta, leaves, flower petals), stick them on to form a collage.

Here are some examples

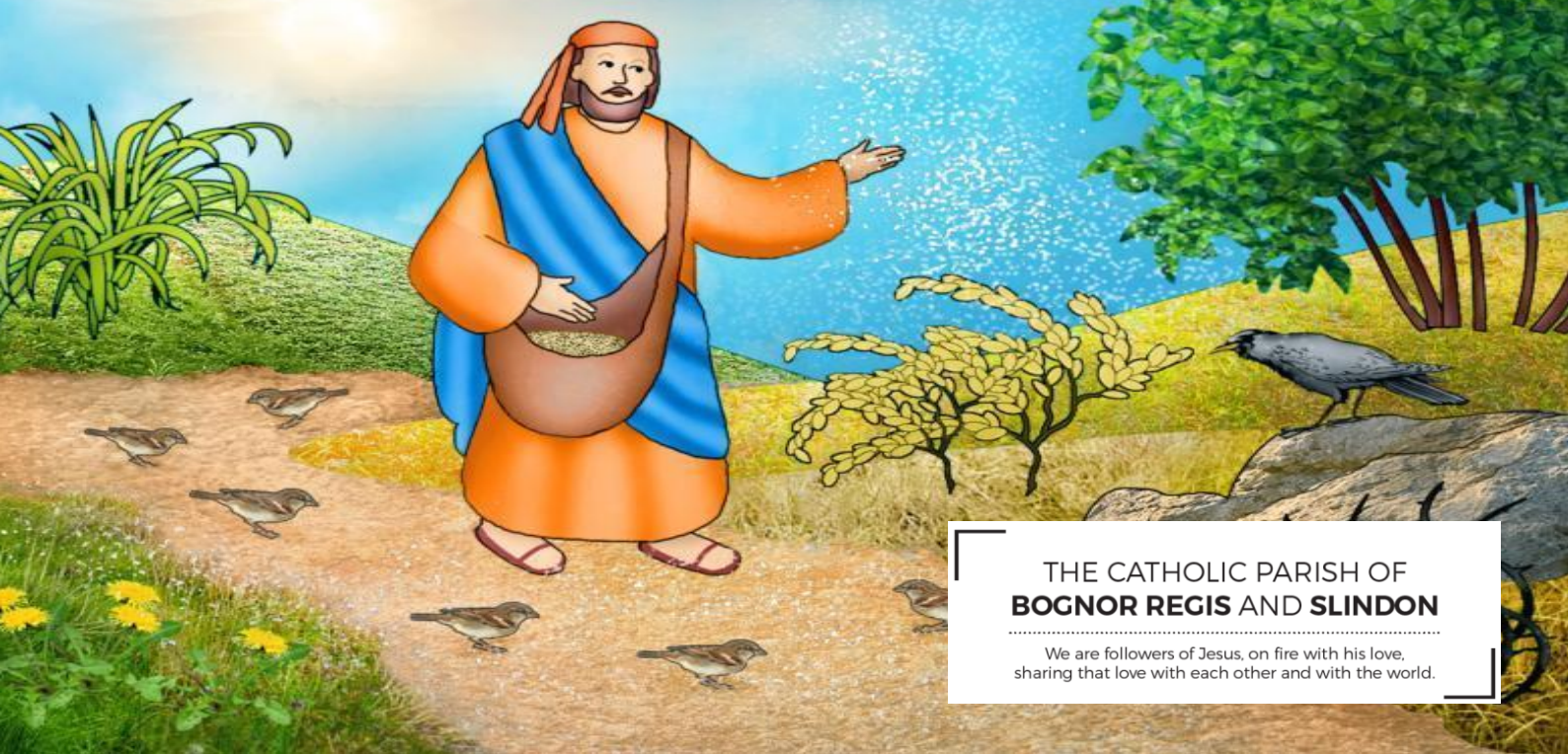


Make an “I listen to God’s word” flower picture

You could draw a flower with blank leaves and fill them in through the week with things you have done which show you are trying to be a good follower of Jesus.

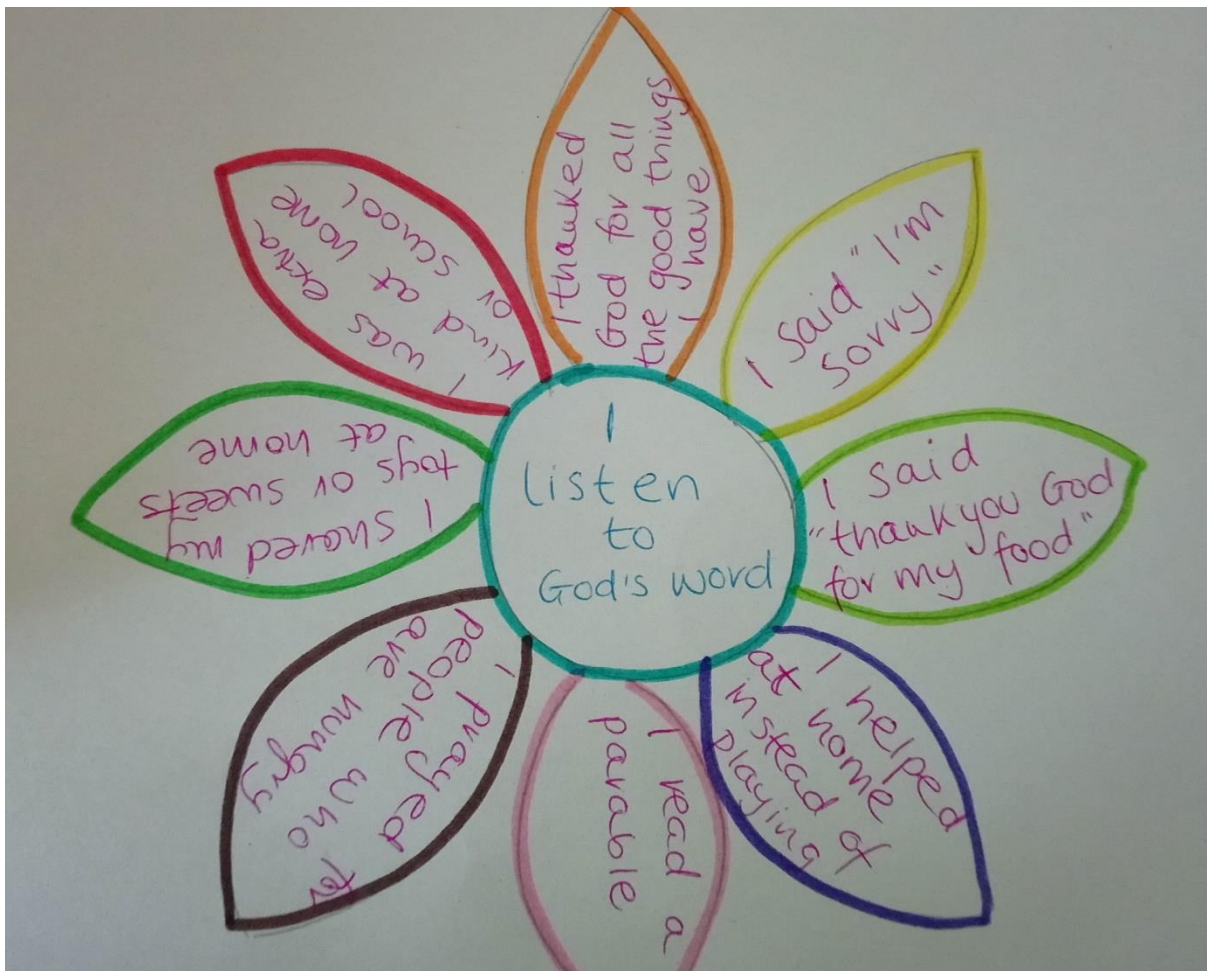
Or, you could cut out the leaves and pick one every day to try and do to show you are listening to God’s word.

Here is one I made for some suggestions.



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Create your own version of the parable

If you have some seeds at home or can easily buy some, try making some pots with each of the different kinds of soil in that the Gospel story describes. Keep your pots outside and see what happens to each of the seeds. It's going to be sunny and dry for the next couple of weeks so you might need to water them!