

Children's Sermon,

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"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." (Luke 8:8 NIV 1984)

**More Than Ever,
Make a Difference**

Preparation:

1. Get packets of seeds to show children
2. Get a kernel of popcorn (or a kernel of seed corn), an ear of corn, and a picture of a corn stalk with ears of corn growing.

Presentation:

Show the seed packets to the children and ask what we do with seeds. Explain that we plant seeds to grow flowers, food, trees, and other plants.

Show the kernel of popcorn and the ear of corn. Explain that each kernel of corn can grow a corn stalk plant. Each corn stalk will have several ears of corn. Ask the children how many ears of corn could be grown from the kernels of just one ear. (Too high to count!)

Ask the children what we have to do to get seeds to grow. Discuss preparing the soil, planting the seeds, and the need for both sunshine and rain.

Say: Jesus told a story which helps us understand more about God. In this story a farmer planted seeds. Some of the seeds fell on hard soil and the birds came and ate them. Some of the seeds fell on rocky soil, but when the seeds sprouted they withered in the hot sun because the rocks kept them

from taking root. Some of the seeds fell on ground with thorns. When the plants began to grow, the thorns choked out the plants. And some of the seeds fell on good soil where they grew and grew and produced a big crop. The crop was up to 100 times more than the number of seeds that were planted.

In this story, the seed represents the Word of God and telling people about Jesus. Sometimes people are like the different kinds of soil in the story. Some people hear about Jesus but quickly forget about Him. Some people listen but are too busy to give their hearts to Jesus. Some people let their problems keep them from believing in Jesus. And some people are happy to hear about Jesus and God's Word grows in their hearts. We don't know who will listen and believe, so we just have to keep planting Jesus seeds by telling everyone we know about Jesus. And like the good soil where the seed produced a big crop, when we tell people about Jesus we just do not know how many other people will also hear about Jesus from the people that we told.

So, this week, let's **more than ever, make a** difference by telling people about Jesus. And when you tell someone about Jesus, think about the seeds the farmer planted. Pray that the person you tell about Jesus will let the message about Jesus be like a little seed planted in his or her heart, and that it will grow and grow. And pray that one day, the person that you told about Jesus will tell someone else!

