

Closing scripture & prayer led by Rev'd Ray Stanyon

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15: 13*

Thoughts you might want to consider after the Bible study meeting:

- + What kind of soil do you most resemble right now?
- + What kind of soil did you resemble in the past?
- + What kind of soil are you hoping to become?

- how has the soil changed?
- who has been most helpful in this process?

*Michael J. Wilkins in [*Matthew, Mark, Luke: Volume One \(Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary\)*](#):

With thanks to Robert Mitchell for his thoughts & suggestions. Karen Smith Feb.2021

Seeds of Hope

Lent Bible Study Group 2021

Session 1:

Sowing Seeds of Hope



Fleet URC & Beacon Hill URC

Seeds of Hope Lent Group

Week 1: Monday February 22nd 2021 *Sowing Seeds of Hope*

Prayer led by Karen

Scripture text: Luke 8: 4 – 15

Discussion points:

- What did Jesus want to say about his coming ministry through this parable?
- Why do you suppose that this was among the first parables that Jesus told?

A gardening tip:

Seed was sown 'broadcast' style by scattering it in all directions by hand while walking up and down the field. The average rate of sowing wheat varies from twenty pounds per acre (22.5 kilograms per hectare) upward, which allowed for wasted seed. Fields were apparently ploughed both before the seed was sown and after, ploughing across the original furrows to cover the seeds with soil. It was common for seed to be scattered on the hard paths that surrounded the fields. Birds would swoop down as the farmer walked on and eat the seed.

Conditions for farming in many areas of Israel were not favourable. The hardships that many people experienced included insufficient amounts of water and soil. The terrain in most cases was uneven and rocky, with only thin layers of soil

*covering the rock. Seed that landed on this shallow soil could begin to germinate, but it couldn't put down deep roots to collect what little moisture was in that parched thin layer of earth. Sprouting seed would soon wither and die in the hot sun (13:6).**

Discussion points:

- Why did Jesus compare the Word of God with a seed? Find as many similarities as possible.
- What do you prefer to call this parable: the parable of the sower or the parable of the soils?
- How do you interpret the four different types of soil?

Hearing the text differently:

If you have another reading of the Parable in a Bible, be prepared to share them now.

- Count the number of times the word hear or listen is used in this passage.
- Why is it important to consider carefully how you listen?
- What is something you have heard from God this week that you could put into practice today?

A seed of hope

*When you see snowdrops in February, may they be a symbol of **hope** for you: hope in the wonderful love and faithfulness of the Lord, while you trust 'that in all things God works for the good of those who love him' (Romans 8:28)*