

LET'S IDENTIFY THEM!

After studying the parable of the Sower and the Seed, read through the following situations then, in the box beside each of them, put the correct letter which identifies the type of soil they might be. Consider your own reactions to they same types of situations, and decided which type of "soil" you are.

DEFINITION

W - wayside - A hardened person who rejects what he/she hears.

R - rocky - A person who quickly quits.

T - thorny - A Person who is entangled with things of the world.

G - good - A person who holds tightly to the truth until they mature as a Christian.

- The person who says, "I don't need God."
- The person who chooses to watch a football game rather than go to church.
- The guy who comes to church just to check out the good-looking girls.
- The person who reads his/her Bible and prays regularly.
- The high school student who stops coming to church because his/her favorite youth minister moved away.
- The young person who wants his/her friends to become Christians.
- The person who lives for his/her car above all else.
- The young person who hides his/her Bible when unsaved friends come around.
- The high school student who wants to obey the Lord.
- The person who acts like an "angel" on Sunday — only.
- The person who got excited about God because his/her friends did, and then gave up when they did.
- The junior high student who is in Sunday school only because his/her parents make him/her come, but cares nothing about God.

What Am I?

Pretend you are a type of soil referred to in the parable of the Sower and the Seed. Ask yourself, "Am I wayside, or rocky, or thorny, or good?" Read the definitions below, then do the self-evaluation chart. What type of soil do your responses indicate you are? In which areas do you need to improve? Will you let Jesus do some "cultivating" in your life?

Self-Evaluation

Reading my Bible:

- I don't even own a Bible.
- I glance at it once in a while.
- I would like to, but I never have time.
- I make sure I read it daily.

Taking time to pray:

- Pray? What's that?
- I prayed a couple of times at church.
- I know I should, but I'm too tired at night.
- I take time to pray every day.

Church attendance:

- What's there in church for me?
- I go once in a while.
- There's always something else I need to do.
- I don't like to miss a meeting.

My thought life:

- You'd better not ask.
- Once in a while a try to shape it up.
- Lots of other things crowd in when I try to think about God.
- I discipline my mind and try to make sure my thoughts are appropriate for a Christian.

My life as others see it:

- No one would mistake me for a Christian.
- I try to do good, but it never lasts.
- I'm just too busy having fun to worry much about my Christian testimony.
- I try to live every day so that others can see Jesus in me.

My priorities:

- I want what I want, and I mean to have it.
- I know I should rearrange my priorities, but I'm having so much fun.
- I'm so absorbed in me and my worries that I rarely worry about what God wants.
- I want my whole life to be arranged by God, in both the big and the little areas.

My attitudes:

- Me first.
- I generally fall in with whatever my friends think best.
- I want to have Christian attitudes, but it's too hard.
- I look to God to correct any wrong attitudes and to help me please Him.

Definitions

wayside — A hardened person who rejects what he/she hears.

rocky — A person who quickly quits.

thorny — A Person who is entangled with things of the world.

good — A person who holds tightly to the truth until they mature as a Christian.



Grow In Grace

Each of the boxes below represent a type of soil onto which the seed of God's Word may fall. Read through each section and identify the four types that Jesus included in His parable of the Sower and the Seed.

Describe **wayside** soil.

Tell what happened to the seed that fell on the wayside soil. See Mark 4:4.

Tell what Jesus said this meant. See Mark 4:15.

What are some of the reasons a person might be a wayside soil person in our day?



Describe **rocky** soil.

Tell what happened to the seed that fell on the rocky soil. See Mark 4:5,6.

Tell what Jesus said this meant. See Mark 4:16,17.

What happens to a rocky soil person spiritually after he/she hears about Jesus?



Describe **thorny** soil.

Tell what happened to the seed that fell on the thorny soil. See Mark 4:7.

Tell what Jesus said this meant. See Mark 4:18,19.

What are some things that might become "thorns" in a Christian's life?



Describe **good** soil.

Tell what happened to the seed that fell on the good soil. See Mark 4:8.

Tell what Jesus said this meant. See Mark 4:20.

What are some possible characteristics of a good-ground person in our day?



Four Types of Characters

In each of the boxes below you will find reference to a type of "soil" onto which the seed of God's Word may fall. Read through each section and tell what type of character each soil represented.

Wayside Soil Characteristics:

"Hard, dry, unplowed, birds eat the seed." See Mark 4:4.

What did Jesus say this meant? See Mark 4:15.

What are some of the reasons a person might be a wayside soil person in our day?



Rocky Soil Characteristics:

"Grew quickly, not much root, no moisture, too much sun, plant withered." See Mark 4:5,6.

What did Jesus say this meant? See Mark 4:16,17.

What happens to a rocky soil person spiritually after he/she hears about Jesus?



Thorny Soil Characteristics:

"Plant grew but thorns choked it." See Mark 4:7.

What did Jesus say this meant? See Mark 4:18,19.

What are some things that might become "thorns" in a Christian's life?



Good Soil Characteristics:

"Plants grew and bore fruit." See Mark 4:8.

What did Jesus say this meant? See Mark 4:20.

What are some possible characteristics of a good-ground person in our day?



Picture Cards

Copy onto white or colored paper. Cut in two.

Use as visual aids while you read or relate the story of the Four Types of Soil.

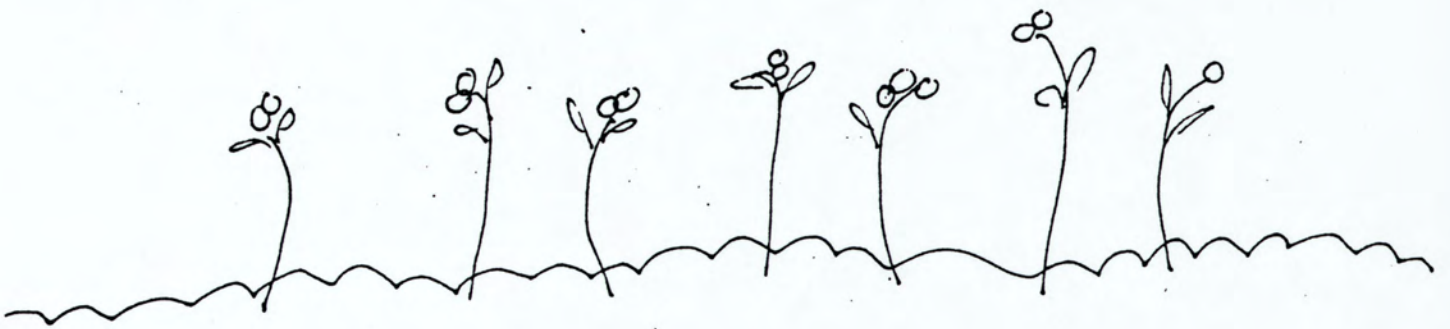
Memory Game

Scramble cards and lay them face down on the table. Have students turn over a card, read it aloud, and try to find the one that matches.

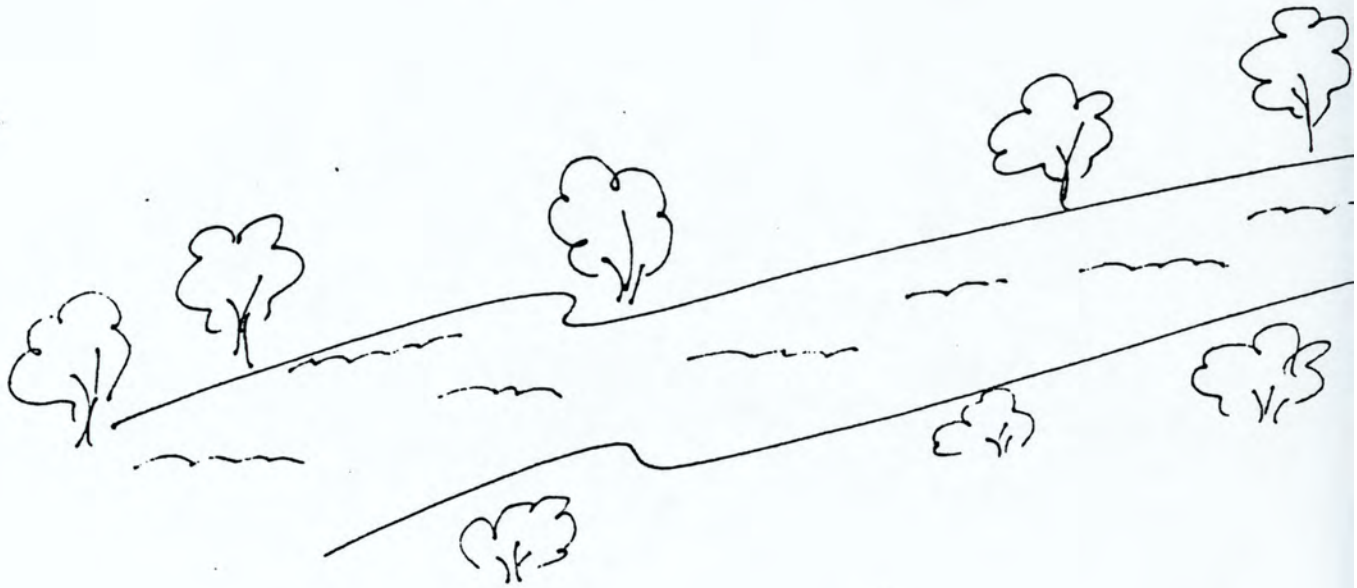
GOOD GROUND



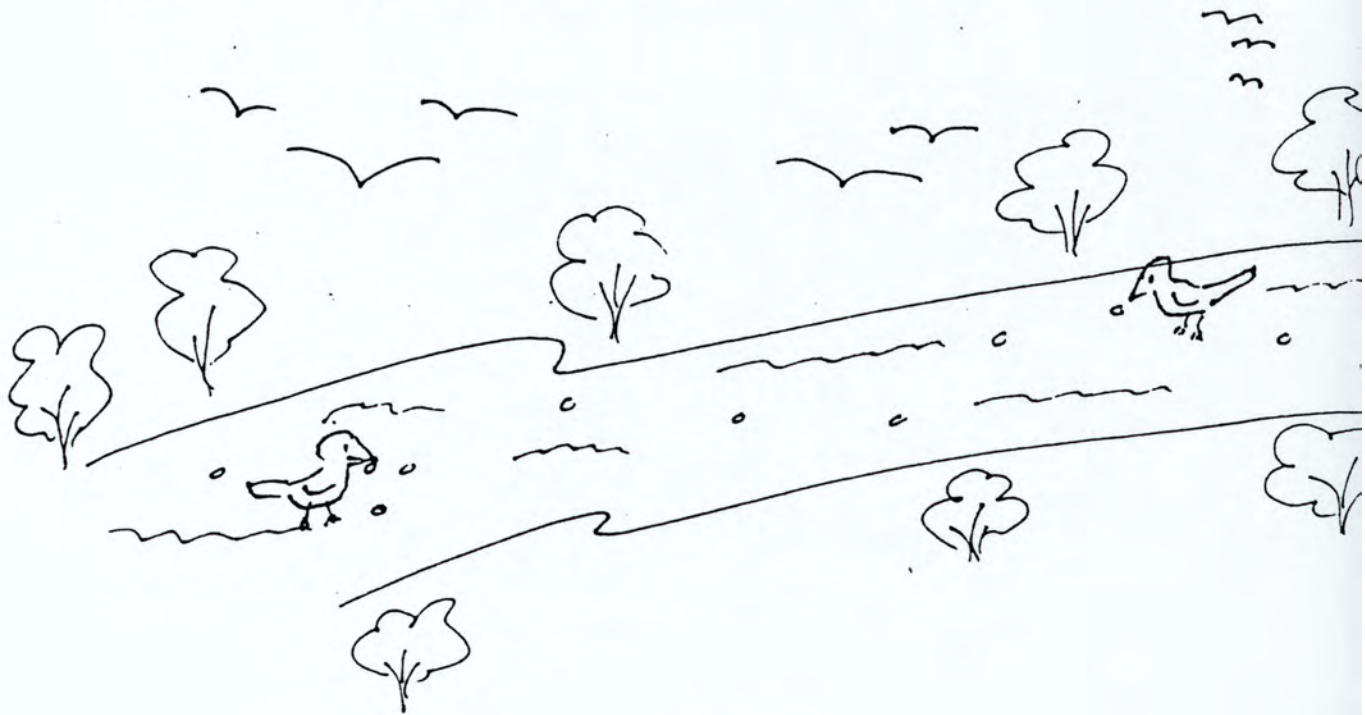
SEED GREW AND BROUGHT FORTH
FRUIT



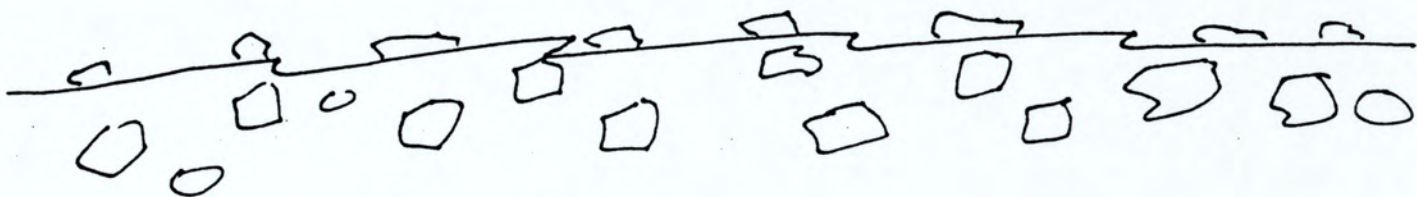
THE WAYSIDE



SEED FELL ON THE STREET -
WAS STEPPED ON AND BIRDS ATE IT



STONY GROUND



SEED DRIED UP FROM LACK
OF WATER



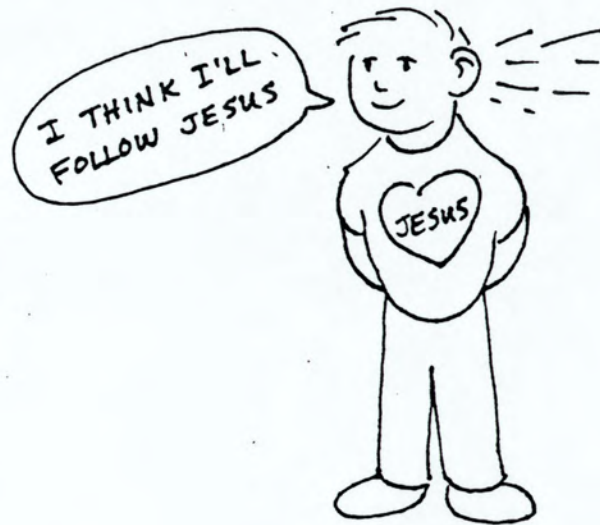
THORNY GROUND



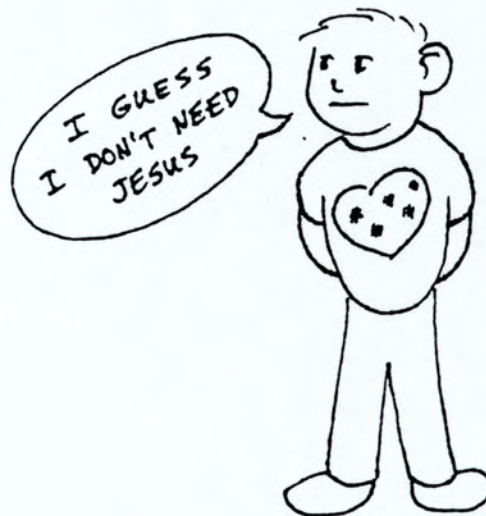
SEED WAS CHOKED OUT -
NO ROOM TO GROW



THOSE BY THE WAYSIDE ARE
THEY THAT HEAR...



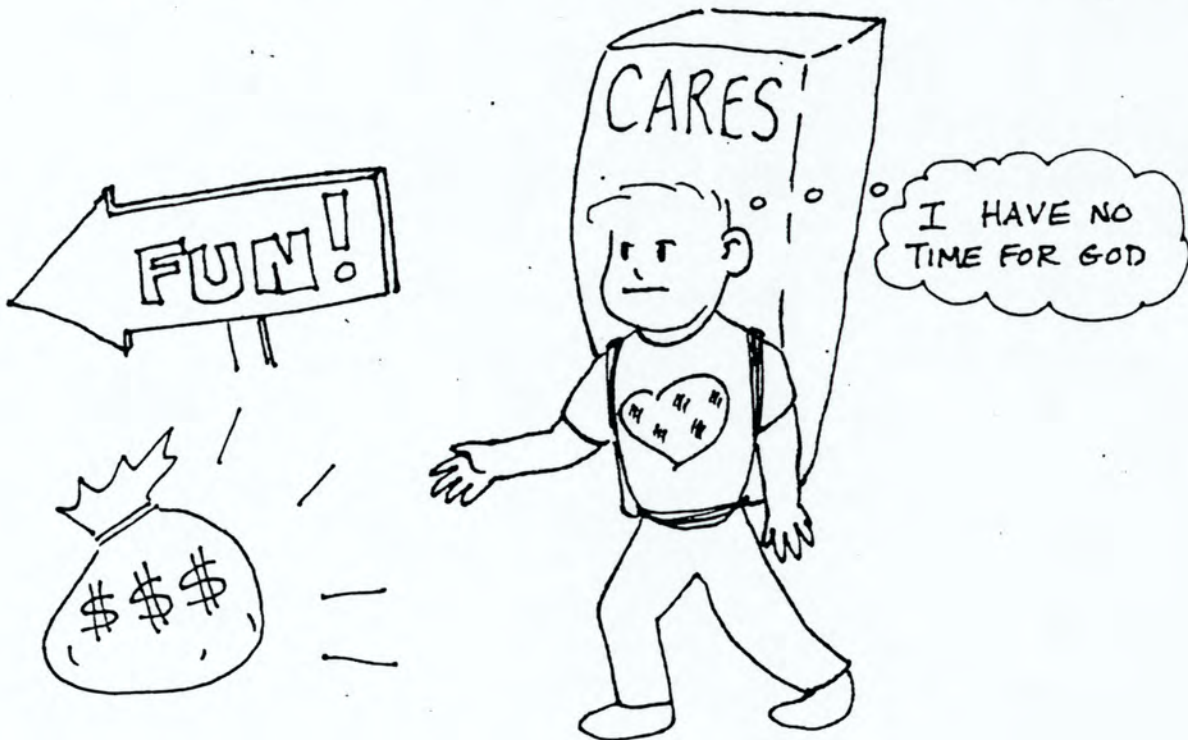
THEN THE DEVIL COMES AND
TAKES AWAY THE WORD



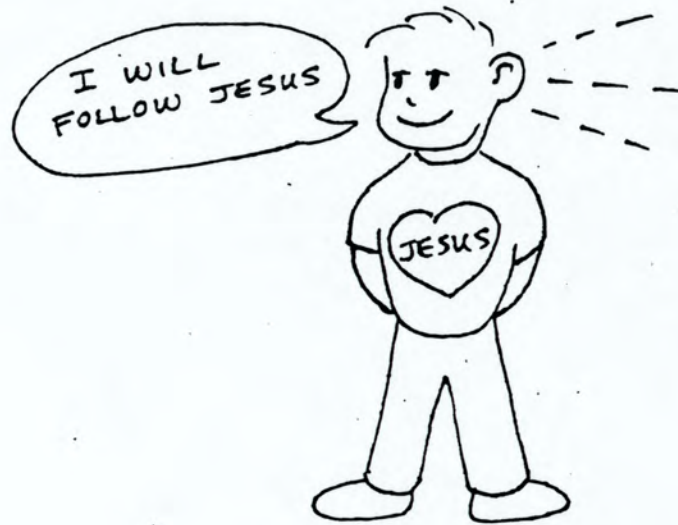
THOSE ON THE THORNY GROUND
ARE THEY THAT HEAR...



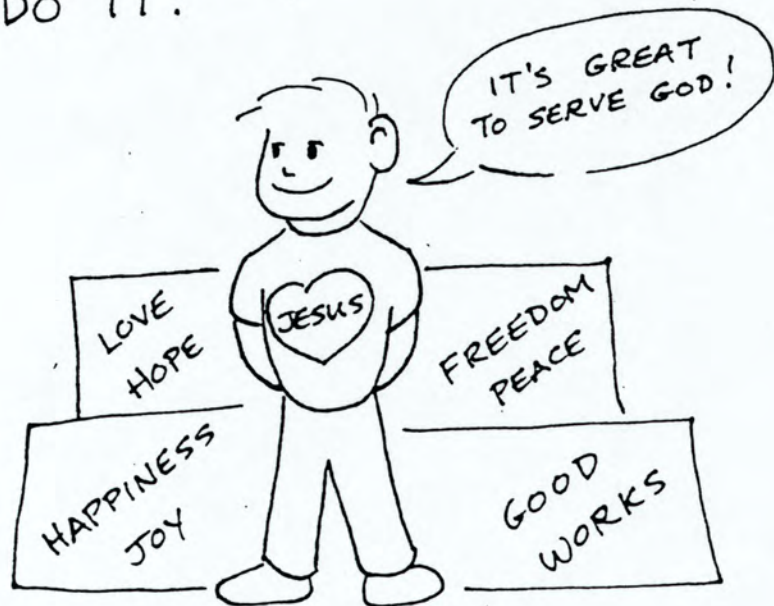
BUT THE CARES, RICHES AND PLEASURES
OF LIFE CHOKER OUT GOD'S WORD



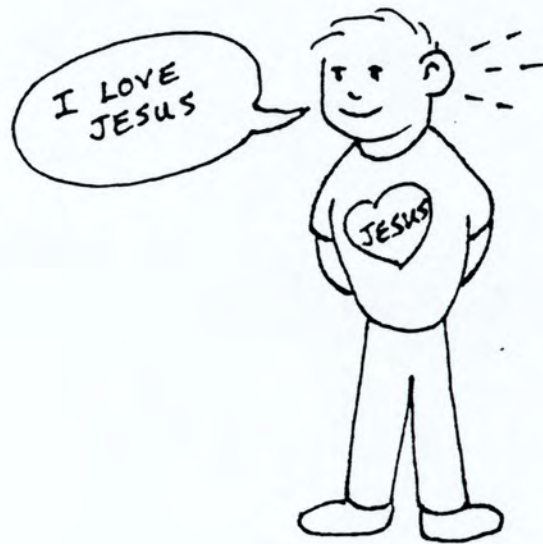
THOSE ON THE GOOD GROUND
ARE THEY THAT HEAR ...



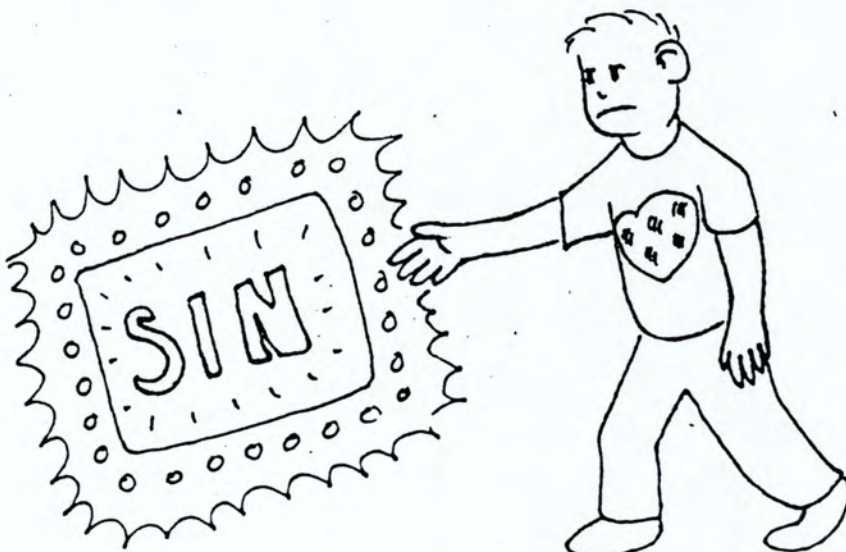
THEY HAVE AN HONEST AND OPEN
HEART. THEY KEEP GOD'S WORD
AND DO IT.



THOSE ON THE STONY GROUND
ARE THEY THAT HEAR...



THEY BELIEVE FOR A WHILE, BUT
WHEN TEMPTATION COMES, THEY FALL
AWAY.



THE SEED IS ...



THE WORD OF GOD

