

A DAILY RITUAL

Before VBS Activities Begin

PRAYER

A Prayer for Creation

Begin with prayer.

The leader does not need to be an adult. If there are enough people, assign someone other than the leader to read or lead the prayers.

Leader

God, you are a great God, greater than all gods.
In your hands are all the corners of the earth.

People

You made majestic mountains.
You made the deep sea and all that lives in it.
You prepared the dry land for beasts, bugs, and, birds.
And you brought us into your creation.

Leader

Make us bold to sow seeds of hope,
seeds of justice, and seeds of love in all the world.
Through your grace we pray,
Amen.

PARABLE

of the Sower

Choose if you'd like to watch the Godly Play version online, **or**, read a version of it below. Alternatively, read the unadapted version from a family bible (Mark 4). Try to emphasize the part of the parable that corresponds with the daily theme each day.

There once was someone who did such amazing things and said such wonderful things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him speaking about a kingdom. The kingdom was not like the one they were in. It was not like one that anyone had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom anyone had even heard about. So they had to ask him, "What is the kingdom of heaven like?" One day when they asked him that, he said, "The kingdom of heaven is like when a sower, someone who scatters seeds, goes out and scatters seeds along the path. As the sower sowed seeds along the path, the birds of the air came..... and ate the seeds. The sower also sowed seeds among the stones. When the seeds tried to put their little roots down among the stones, they could not push their way into the ground. When the sun came out, it scorched the seeds and they died. The sower also sowed seeds among the thorns. When the seeds tried to push their little roots down among the thorns, they could push them part way in, but the thorns choked them, and they died. The sower also sowed seeds in the good earth. When the seeds pushed their little roots down into the good earth, they could go all the way in. They grew and grew. When they were all grown up, they were ripe for the harvest. Then they were cut off and gathered up. The harvest was thirty, sixty, and one hundred bushels."