

## THE PLANTER OF SEEDS MATTHEW 13:3-8

In Jesus' day the farmer planted seed by throwing the little seeds out onto the ground. He wanted them to grow into big plants. But some birds came and ate some of the seeds. Those seeds could not grow because the birds took them away. Some of the seed fell down onto rocks and the seeds could not grow there. But some of the seed fell on good ground and grew up to become big plants.

Jesus tells us that the seed is the Word of God. Jesus tells us that the seed should grow like big plants do in good soil. We should not let anybody take the Word of God away like birds that eat good seed, and then no plant can grow. We should not let anything crowd the Word of God out of our hearts, like weeds and thorns crowd out plants.

Jesus wants faith to grow in our hearts and save us like seeds planted in good soil.

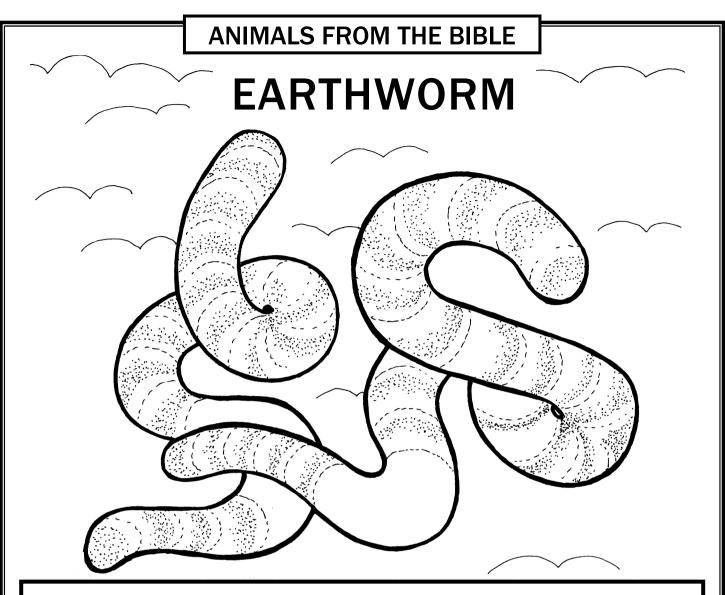
## PRAYER

May we love Your Word, Lord Jesus, and gladly hear and learn it. Amen

Bible passage for older children to memorize:

JOHN 8:47 (In this passage Jesus is talking.)

"He who belongs to God hears what God says."



Earthworms are a great help to us. They help make the soil *(dirt or ground)* grow strong and that makes healthy plants. They eat dead things and that helps to keep the land clean. They move all around in the soil doing their work.

Have you ever seen worms lying on the sidewalk after it rains? Many of them are dead because they took the wrong path and lost the protection of the soil. This is like today's lesson about God's Word. When we hear stories from the Bible, we should really think about them and use what they teach every day. If we ignore the lessons from the Bible, we may end up like the earthworms that took the wrong path. PSALM 92: 12-15

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD,

they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age,

they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him."

(New International Version of the Bible)

24-5