

## **Parable of the Sower (Alternate Activity – B1)**

**Read Matthew 13:1-9.**

*As you read through and answer these questions, think of God as the triune God: Father/Son/Holy Spirit or Creator/Redeemer/Sustainer.*

### **Four Questions for Interpretation**

#### **1. What do I learn about God?**

*God is the main character of the Bible, so he should be our starting point. Every passage of Scripture reveals something about God, even if God is not specifically mentioned.*

#### **2. What do I learn about people?**

*Humans are at the center of God's purposes on earth. Think through what the passage reveals about our identity as ones created in God's image. Look for the way the people turn their back on God, and why that happened. Consider what the passage reveals about living as those who've been forgiven by Christ.*

#### **3. What do I learn about I can relate to God?**

*Loving God with our whole being expresses itself in a variety of ways. Start by looking for reasons to praise God. Identify any promises God calls us to believe.*

#### **4. What do I learn about how I should relate others?**

*God created us to be in community with one another. God makes us part of the body of Christ. Start by considering what the passage shows about interacting with others—family, friends, teammates, classmates, neighbors, fellow Christians, non-Christians, etc. Reflect on what the passage teaches about loving, serving, and caring well for others.*

Based on that foundation, we can then ask four simple questions to help us apply the passage to our lives.

#### **Three Questions for Application**

##### **1. What does God want me to understand/think?**

*Reading scripture should transform or change us; and yet, often we refuse to be open to learning new things. Deep and lasting transformation begins with reading the Bible with open hearts and minds to new ideas. You can also reflect on any wrong ways of thinking that the passage exposes.*

##### **2. What does God want me to desire?**

*This question targets the affections—the combination of desires, inclinations, feelings, and will that are the spring of our actions. God calls us to worship God above all else. Reflect on ways you can receive and share God's love with others.*

##### **3. What does God want me to do?**

*When God's Word changes how we think, what we believe, and what we desire, it will produce tangible change in what we do and don't do. Sometimes a passage gives us direct command. But many are far less straightforward, requiring us to think carefully about specific actions in light of our current place in redemptive history.*