

Prayers for Growing Justice



Prayers



For Household, Church prayers, CRE Lesson, Kids Talk



Between 7 - 20 minutes (depending on how long you give to soils construction)



Messy option: 4 types of soil (rocks, weeds, cardboard, paper or plastic birds), seeds, tray

Clean option: 4 coloured pieces of fabric, seeds, pipe cleaners, plasticine.

Printed prayer cards (see Appendix)







Mark 4

Connecting with Jesus,

His Story

and His Vision of the Reign of God

-  Jesus gave us a story about responsiveness to the message of 'Good News' for all. He is realistic about the impediments to its impact, and yet still wonderfully hopeful about its **fruitfulness**. Some seed does fall on rocky or vulnerable or thorny ground, but some falls in good places of abundance.
-  Read Mark 4 as a group. Invite one person to read the whole passage, but for everyone else to join in on all of the words that begin with the letter **S**.
-  Together construct the 4 types of soil on a tray...some ways to do this include: dig some soil out of your garden, add rocks, weeds, put in a cardboard path, add some plastic (from a farm set) or little paper birds. Or use 4 different coloured pieces of fabric (a little less messy if you are sensitive to that). Spread some seeds on the soil. Make pipe cleaner weeds and stand them up using plasticine. Make birds from plasticine.
-  Give each person or pairs of people one picture/prayer card. If you are using this in a large group context put the pictures and prayers onto powerpoint slides. Give them time to look over it and read the prayer to themselves.



Some seed fell on rocky ground:

We pray for places in the world where the ground is hard, and people find it hard to grow food. We pray especially for places where the ground has been made hard by war.



Some seed fell on the path and birds came and snatched it away....

We pray that food would not be taken away from those who need it. We pray for people whose food supply is vulnerable. Help us to speak up and act up where we can to protect their rights.



Some seed fell on good soil, but thorns grew up and choked the plants:

We pray for areas of the world where there is competition for food and other resources. Where large wealthy companies squeeze out smaller local farmers and producers – we pray for justice, we pray for the power of 'thorny' business to be removed in a way that will allow good things to grow.



Some seed fell on good soil and produced 100 fold harvest:

We rejoice in the way the earth continues to provide for us. We pray that the abundant food resources of the world would be shared well, with justice, grace, honesty and peace. We thank you for giving us wise godly ideas of how to do this and the strength of your spirit to live them out.