



Written by
Cora Alley

“The Dirt on Growing Up”

Scripture: Matthew 13: 3-9; 18-23

(At the end of this script, see an abridged version of the “Parable of the Sower” for your use.)

Dramatic Category: Skermon

Topic: Four human reactions to the “seed”: the word of God.

Performance Time: 15 minutes + the sermon

Number of Players: 7 women + the Pastor/Narrator

Objective:

This “Skermon” involves the one who delivers the sermon as the “narrator,” who then preaches about each type of soil (human heart) that the word of God (the seed) falls upon.

Synopsis:

Jesus tell the parable of “The Sower” as a metaphor to four different reactions to the word of God being planted in the human heart. The seed planted by the footpath (*Robin*) does not understand God’s truth and rejects it; the seed planted in shallow ground(*Sandy*) does not withstand hardship or persecution; the seed planted among the thorns (*Rhoda*) is choked out by cares & riches; but, the seed, planted in good soil, (*Earnestine, Gladys, & Melody*) yields a crop one hundred-fold.

Cast:

Robin: *The one who does not understand*
Sandy: *The one who cannot withstand hardship or persecution*
Eileen: *The nosy neighbor*
Rhoda: *The one who’s faith is choked out by cares & wealth*
Earnestine: *The good soil ministering to Robin*
Gladys: *The good soil ministering to Sandy*
Melody: *The good soil ministering to Rhoda*
Pastor/Narrator: *One who walks among the “still-life” settings and weaves the various scenes together.*

Props:

4 Bibles	A scarf with a broach
A cell phone	A make-up kit
A pager	A make-up mirror
A magazine	2 low tables
A couch pillow	A few chairs
2 hard-boiled eggs	

Note: This skit can be done as **four separate skits** that are tied together with the final scene, or they can be done in **one sitting**. A message on each of the reactions to God’s word being sown in the human heart, could follow each scene, with a wrap-up at the end of all four scenes. All players are on stage for every scene; three of the four scenes are always frozen, with only one in action.

Sound Effects: The sounds of a pager going off and a cell phone ringing

The Setting: The stage plan for these skits is as follows:

NARRATOR

RHODA’S HOME

SANDY’S HOME

ROBIN’S HOME

ERNESTINE GLADYS MELODY

(These three “good soils” sit at the edge of the stage and get up to enter their respective scenes.)

The Script

Scene 1:

(Lights up on the home of Robin. She is working out, wearing an exercise suit. She is frozen in position as the narrator begins to tell “The Parable of the sower.”)

Narrator:

(Walking into Robin’s house and pointing to her. Robin is frozen in an exercise position and does not respond to the narrator who reads this out of the Bible. Tuck this script into a Bible.)

One day, Jesus began to teach a crowd of people who had gathered to hear Him. He spoke to them in a parable, saying:

“A farmer when out to scatter some seed. As he was scattering the seed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.”

Listen to what “The Parable of the Sower” means:

“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”

(The narrator leaves the stage. With Bible in hand, Earnestine jumps into action and runs over to knock on an imaginary door to Robin’s house.)

Robin: *(exercising vigorously)* One, two, three, four.

Earnestine: *(shouting)* Robin! Are you home? Robin!

Robin: *(running over to get the imaginary door)* Oh, hi Earnestine! Come on in. *(Robin is jogging in place.)* How’vya been?

Earnestine: Fine thanks, I just came by to see if you have any questions about that “Joy of Living” study on the life of David that I gave you last week. Did you read it?

Robin: Well, I read through some of it, but I just don’t get it.

Earnestine: Let’s talk about it. I have my Bible, and I have time.

Robin: *(She continues to exercise)* Speaking of joy of living, did you see this article in Single Girl about body fat. Did you know that most people carry over 30% excess fat on their bodies?

Earnestine: Fascinating....now about King David. What did you think? He’s a man after God’s own heart. Isn’t his story amazing?

Robin: Well, he may be a man after God’s own heart, but he was really after the heart of that girl who took a bath outside.

Earnestine: Bathsheba?

Robin: Is that how she got her name? “She” who takes “baths” outside?

Earnestine: No, I don’t think so. David sinned, yes, but he repented and made his peace with God. That same peace is available to you, Robin. God extends grace to all of His children.

Robin: Does she take baths outside, too.

Earnestine: What? Who?

Robin: Grace. She must be a very busy woman.

Earnestine: No...you've got it all wrong. Grace is not a woman; "grace" means getting something you don't deserve.

Robin: Oh, like that speeding ticket I got this morning. I didn't deserve that. I was only going...

Earnestine: No! God extends His "grace" to us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Robin: *(looking up at Earnestine with a puzzled look)* Huh?

Earnestine: Your sins will be forgiven, and you will have eternal life with God, if you will only give your heart to Jesus.

Robin: No thanks. I don't even carry one of those "organ-donor" stickers on my driver's license. Did you know they will let you die if you get in an accident, just so they can get your heart. No...I'm not interested in this whole thing.

Earnestine: It's not like that at all. Let me explain what I mean.

Robin: I have to do my 3-mile run now. I really have to go.

Earnestine: May I leave you my Bible. Just read the first chapter of the Gospel of John. We can start at the very beginning.

(She puts her Bible on the counter next to the magazine.)

Robin: I don't know about all this.

Earnestine: I'll explain everything.

Robin: Maybe.

(Earnestine leaves and Robin shuts the imaginary door. Earnestine returns to sit at the front of the stage with the other "good soils." Robin walks over to where the Bible and the magazine lie side by side. After a moment, she chooses the magazine and begins reading it. She freezes.)

Option #1:

All the players leave the stage and a message follows on: "Understanding the Word of God and not allowing Satan (the evil one) to snatch it from our hearts."

When the next message begins, (either in the same session or at the next session) the narrator steps back onto the stage filled with all the players and refreshes the memory of the audience before going on with the parable.

Narrator: *(Motioning to Robin, who comes to life from her freeze and chooses the magazine over the Bible again.)* "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not

understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

Go on with the narrator's introduction to scene 2, below.

Option #2:

After the action freezes, the narrator steps onto the stage and continues the "Parable of the Sower."

Narrator: *(Moving on to the next scene with Sandy, who is frozen as she stares out of an imaginary window.)*

Some seed fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow, but when the sun came out, the plants were scorched and withered because they had no root.

Listen to what "The Parable of the Sower" means:

"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the (woman) who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since she has no root, she lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, (she) quickly falls away. "

Scene 2:

(The narrator steps off of the stage. With Bible in hand, Gladys jumps up from the front of the stage and knocks on Sandy's door, and Scene 2 begins.)

Sandy: *(nervously looking both ways out of her window. Her concentration is broken by a knock at her door.)* I knew it. It was just a matter of time. *(She goes to open the door.)*

Gladys: Hi! How are you?

Sandy: *(pulling Gladys inside quickly, then peeking outside and looking both ways.)* Come in, quick! *(She shuts the imaginary door.)*

Gladys: What's the matter?

Sandy: They're watching me.

Gladys: Who? Who's watching you.

Sandy: My neighbors. Ever since I've been going to the "Joy of Living" study on Tuesday mornings, they've been acting funny towards me. I see them talking, and I know it's about me.

Gladys: Don't be silly; I'm sure you're just imagining things. They could be talking about anything; not you. *(She places her Bible on the table in an obvious place.)*

Sandy: Last Tuesday, when I came home from "Joy of Living," my neighbor, Eileen, was out in her yard, and she saw me carrying my Bible. She asked about it...and, well...I didn't know what to say.

Gladys: Why didn't you tell her that your Bible is the Word of God and invite her to come to "Joy of Living" with you?

Sandy: *(shocked)* I'm sure...that's one way to end my social standing. You've got to break people into this religion thing slowly. It's pretty complicated stuff.

Gladys: What's so complicated? Christ died for you, now you live for Him; sounds pretty simple to me.

Sandy: It's not that simple. I can pray my head off, and my troubles don't go away; I don't get everything I want.

Gladys: Maybe God is using your troubles to make you into something He wants.

Sandy: I don't think so. Not every prayer is answered.

Gladys: Sure it is. "No," is an answer, too.
(They are interrupted by a knock at the door.)

Sandy: *(in a panic.)* I knew it.

Gladys: *(puzzled)* What?

Sandy: *(She peeks through the view hole)* It's Eileen, my neighbor. She must have seen you carrying your Bible in here, and now I'm going to hear about it. *(sharply)* Can you keep your Bible in your purse next time? *(She opens the door and lets Eileen in)*

Eileen: *(bursting into the room and giving Sandy a hug; Sandy returns the hug with a hesitant glance to Gladys.)* Sandy! Hi. Sorry to bother you and...*(She waits to be introduced to Gladys...)*

Gladys: *(extending her hand)* I'm Gladys. Sandy and I go to the same....

Sandy: *(cutting Gladys off)* Hairdresser.

Eileen: (*surprised*) Oh...you do. I'm Eileen, the neighbor.

Gladys: It's good to meet you. I just came by to go over last week's....

Sandy: News stories. We've got to keep up on current events.
(*Gladys and Eileen both look puzzled*) We have to be responsible citizens...stay informed.

Eileen: Well, good. Sandy, dear, I'm making brownies, and I need 2 eggs. I'm all out, and I wondered if maybe I could...

Sandy: (*cutting Eileen off and hurrying to the side of the set,*)
Of course, I have two eggs right here.

(*As she moves across the set, she obviously drops a pillow right on top of Gladys' Bible that lays on the coffee table. She grabs two eggs.*)

Here you go, dear. Come back when you can stay longer.
(*She begins to usher her out the door.*)

Gladys: It was nice to meet you.

Eileen: I enjoyed meeting you, too. Maybe we could visit sometime.

Sandy: I'm so sorry you can't stay.

Gladys: (*To Eileen*) Where do you go to...

Sandy: Get your hair cut?

Eileen: To Marlene, at Hair Palace....why?

Sandy: It just looks great! (*pushing her out the door*) Bye, now.
(*Eileen closes the imaginary door and leans up against it with relief.*)
That was close!

Gladys: No, it really wasn't. If you want to be close, you have to get to know her and learn to focus on her needs as a person, as a child of God. Being a neighbor goes a lot deeper than borrowing eggs.

Sandy: Oh Gladys, you have so much to learn about social circles.

Gladys: Shall we go over the "Joy of Living" study?

Sandy: Well, I don't think so. My bridge club meets in an hour, and I have to get ready. Maybe another time.

Gladys: Okay, I'll come another time. *(looking for her Bible)*
I thought I put my Bible right here.

Sandy: *(Moving to the Bible under the pillow)* You did. It's under here.

Gladys: Why did you cover up the Bible?

Sandy: Really Gladys, *(She pauses and gives Gladys a knowing stare)*
what would people think? *(Sandy removes the pillow and hands Gladys her Bible.)*
Here you go. I'll see you later. I have to run.

Gladys: *(Sandy ushers Gladys toward the door.)* I'll call you.

Sandy: *(Opening the imaginary door, looking both ways, and pushing Gladys out.)*
It's all clear, and remember, next time you come, put your Bible in your purse.

(Gladys leaves, shaking her head. She returns to the front of the stage and sits with the other "good soils." Sandy closes the imaginary door quickly, and peeks out the window, looking both ways.)

Option #1:

*All the players leave the stage and a message is presented on:
"Not having a shallow faith that cannot withstand persecution or trouble."*

When the next message begins, (either in the same session or at the next session) the narrator steps back onto the stage filled with all the players and refreshes the memory of the audience before going on with the parable.

Narrator: *(Motioning to Robin, who comes to life from her freeze and chooses the magazine over the Bible again.)* "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

(Sandy closes the imaginary door quickly, and peeks out the window, looking both ways.) The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the woman who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since she has no root, she lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, she quickly falls away.

Go on with the narrator's introduction to scene 3, below.

Option #2:

After the action freezes, the narrator steps onto the stage and continues the “Parable of the Sower.”

(The narrator moves on to Scene 3, and says:)

Other seed fell on thorny soil, which grew up and choked the plants.
Listen to what “The Parable of the Sower” means:

“The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the
(woman) who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the
deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.”

Scene 3:

(Rhoda is carefully setting out her make up and adjusting her make-up mirror on a table that faces the audience. Her scarf and broach are lying beside her on a chair. She wears her pager in an obvious place, and her cell phone is beside the scarf on the chair. With Bible in hand, Melody gets up from her “good soil” row up front and moves to an imaginary door at Stage Left; she knocks.)

Rhoda: *(glancing at her watch as she makes her way to the door.)* Oh, this better not take very long. I have places to go and people to see. *(She open the door and greets Melody.)*

Melody: Hi Rhoda! Have you got a few minutes.

Rhoda: Oh, Melody. Come in. I’m sorry I’m such a wreck. I’ve had a thousand things to do today, and it’s only noon!

Melody: You seem a little frazzled; why don’t we relax for a while and go over our Joy of Living Lesson on the life of David.

Rhoda: David...oh, yes, the lesson. Would you be a dear Mel, and go through it while I put on my make-up. I have a PTA executive meeting today, and I barely have time to breathe.

Melody: Maybe I should come back after your meeting.

Rhoda: No, I go straight from the meeting to get my weave. Don’t you think my hair is looking mousy? I found a place that gives a manicure and a pedicure while you’re having your hair done...sort of a three-in-one thing. Isn’t that just...

(Her pager goes off)

Excuse me. *(She checks the number and hurries over to her cell phone.)*
Sorry, I’ll just be a minute.

(She makes the return call, but as she does. She sits at the make-up table and begins to apply her make up.)

Hello. Yes, this is Rhoda Parker. Yes...I mean no, I didn't forget. I mailed that payment yesterday. Okay...I will...I'm sorry.

(To Melody) Mel, be a dear, and pull up a chair here. We can go over the study while I get ready for my meeting. *(She begins to put on her make-up, and continues doing so throughout the following lines.)*

Melody: Are you sure we shouldn't do this later on this evening.

Rhoda: No, we can't this evening. I've started selling "Gorgeous Glow" candles. I have a candle party tonight. I think it's going to be a big one with lots of bookings. Hey, would you like to be a sales representative under me? Our motto is "You Glow, Girl."

Melody: No, that's Okay, thanks. I really have to be careful with how I fill my time. It's easy to get so busy that you barely have time to really live or hear the voice of God in your life.

Rhoda: Well, too bad. The commissions make great paychecks. I'm up to 25 percent profit. *(Aside in a whisper)* That is some serious cash.

Melody: Speaking of profit. How about we begin this study. *(She pulls up a chair and opens her Bible while Rhoda is primping.)*

(The cell phone rings.)

Rhoda: Oh, sorry. I'll just be a minute. *(on the phone)* Hello. Hi Nancy. No...I'm going to wear the scarf...with the antique broach. It just looks divine with those silver pumps I have. Okay. I'll see you then, dear. Bye -bye.

Melody: Speaking of divine...Let's begin at the beginning with Samuel's anointing of David as the divinely appointed king of Israel. Remember, Jesse brought out all of his sons, but this is the one that Samuel picked.

Rhoda: *(putting on the scarf with the broach)* And this is the one I picked. Do you like it? I have a million scarves, but this one has such a different look, don't you think. That must have been how Samuel felt about David, too. Huh, the Bible really does apply to our lives, doesn't it?

Melody: *(Shocked)* What? Rhoda! Your scarf has nothing at all to do with the Prophet Samuel.

Rhoda: Profit...I am so glad you said that. I don't have enough sales slips for tonight's show, and if I run out of those, it could really cost me some serious profits. Mel, would you understand if I told you I had to postpone our little Bible study. I have to run to my Gorgeous Glow unit leader, and get some more sales slips on top of everything else I have to do. *(She finishes the lipstick step in applying her make-up, and smacks her lips.)*

Melody: *(Moving toward the door)* I think I'd better go. You've got so much on your mind; maybe some other time when things are quieter. How about tomorrow?

Rhoda: *(trying to think)* Tomorrow, that's Wednesday. I know I'm tied up all afternoon, but maybe in the...

(Her pager goes off)

Melody: Never mind. I'll call you tomorrow.

Rhoda: *(calling to Melody as she walks over to her cell phone.)* Don't call me, page me. That's the best way to get a hold of me. Sometimes, I'm not near a regular phone, but I always have my cell phone with me.

Melody: Bye, Rhoda.

Rhoda: Bye, Mel. These spiritual chats are such a blessing.

(Melody rejoins the good soils at the front of the stage, and Rhoda freezes in the position of returning the page on her cell phone.)

Option #1:

All the players leave the stage and a message is presented on:

"Not allowing the love of money or the cares of the world choke out your faith."

When the next message begins, (either in the same session or at the next session) the narrator steps back onto the stage filled with all the players and refreshes the memory of the audience before going on with the parable.

Narrator: *(Motioning to Robin, who comes to life from her freeze and chooses the magazine over the Bible again.)* "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

(Sandy closes the imaginary door quickly, and peeks out the window, looking both ways.)

"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the (woman) who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since she has no root, (she) lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, (she) quickly falls away."

(motioning to Rhoda who comes to life and makes a call on her cell phone.)

“The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the (woman) who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.”

Go on with the narrator’s introduction to Scene 4, below.

Option #2:

After the action freezes, the narrator steps onto the stage and continues the “Parable of the Sower.”

Narrator: But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the woman who hears the word and understands it. She produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.

NOTE: Earnestine, Gladys, and Melody get up from their places on the front of the stage. Earnestine knocks on Robin’s door. Gladys meets Eileen, and they both carry Bibles, very obviously, and stand at Sandy’s door. Melody knocks on Rhoda’s door. Earnestine and Robin come to life first, the rest remain frozen.

Earnestine: *(Shouting)* Robin! Are you in there.

Robin: *(Opening the door and being quite surprised to see Robin.)*
Robin, you’re back! I told you I really have to go for my run, now.

Earnestine: I know, I thought I’d run with you. Three miles is a long way, and...well...
(She begins jogging in place.) I could use the exercise.
We’d have some time to talk, and maybe I could explain some things about God to you.

Robin: I don’t know; most of that religious stuff is just confusing to me.

Earnestine: I know, but maybe I can help clear the fog.

Robin: *(looking outside.)* Do you think there’s going to be fog? Should I get my coat?

Earnestine: I was just speaking in a metaphor. *(Robin looks puzzled)* I’m sorry, you’re probably wondering what’s a metaphor?

Robin: I know what a meadow’s for. It’s for cows to graze in.
(They run off together.)

(Scene 2 comes to life with Gladys and Eileen, smiling and holding their Bibles. Gladys knocks on Sandy’s door.)

Sandy: *(jumping back in disbelief from the window)*
What is Eileen doing with Gladys? *(She opens the door.)*
Gladys, Eileen? Come in.

Eileen: Sandy, thank you so much for introducing me to Gladys.

Sandy: *(in a stupor)* Sure, I'm glad you met.

Eileen: I am too, but I'm really glad I met Jesus, thanks to Gladys. *(showing off her Bible.)*
Look, I have my very own Bible! I've already memorized all the names of the books of the Bible. Did you know there are sixty-six books?

Gladys: *(to Sandy)* She is a real natural when it comes to Bible study.

Eileen: Speaking of Bible study, we're going to this wonderful study called Joy of Living. We're studying the life of David. He was a man after God's own heart. Would you like to come with us next Tuesday?

Sandy: *(dumb-founded)* Sure, I'd love to.

Eileen: Would you like to borrow my Bible. You could read up on II Samuel, so you'll know what's going on next Tuesday.

Sandy: No, thanks. I have my own Bible.

Gladys: Sandy's been a Christian for a long time.

Eileen: You're a Christian? I didn't know. *(The action freezes)*

(Melody is standing just outside Rhoda's door. She calls Rhoda on a cell phone. Rhoda is already on the phone, but ends her conversation quickly.)

Rhoda: *(speaking into her cell phone)* Can I put you on hold, I have another call coming in. *(She pushes the "call waiting button")* Hello.

Melody: Hi, Rhoda, I'll make this quick; I know you don't have a lot of time, but I thought maybe I could ride with you to your candle party tonight. I can help you set up and tear down, and maybe afterwards we could go out for coffee and chat.

Rhoda: Oh, Mel. That would be great. You'd do that for me?

Melody: Sure. I'll even come over and load your stuff in my car, so you can get your paper work together on the way over.

Rhoda: Really? When are coming.

Melody: I'll be right there.

Rhoda: Okay, thanks. I'll see you when you get here.

Melody: *(She knocks on the door immediately)*

Rhoda: Now what? *(She opens the door and is shocked to see Melody)*
Melody, you got here so fast. I was just on the phone...
(She realizes that her party on hold is still there.)
Hold...oh my goodness, I lost the one I was talking to.

Melody: Oh well, I'm sure she'll call back. Now, how can I help you get all your stuff done?

Rhoda: *(In disbelief)* I thought you didn't care about candles?

Melody: I think it's a matter of life and death. *(They freeze)*

(All scenes exit. The message on the "Four Soils" as reactions to the "seed" of God's Word follows.)

“The Parable of the Sower”

One day, Jesus began to teach a crowd of people who had gathered to hear Him. He spoke to them in a parable, saying:

“A farmer went out to scatter some seed. As he was scattering the seed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Some seed fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow, but when the sun came out, the plants were scorched and withered because they had no root.

Other seed fell on thorny soil, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it grew up and yielded a crop--some one hundred--some sixty--some thirty times what was sown. He who has ears to hear, let him hear”

Listen to what “The Parable of the Sower” means:

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the woman who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since she has no root, she lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, she quickly falls away.

The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the woman who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.