

YOUR HEART.....

Hot Topics

The Brisbane Ekka begins this week! For 10 days, the country comes to the city. In celebration of the Ekka this week's English Corner story is about the country and a farmer.

- Are you a city slicker or a country bumpkin?
- Have you ever worked on a farm?
- What are the major crops produced in your country?
- What problems do farmers have in your country?

Today's Lesson...

Today's story is about a farmer but it is also a story about your heart.

Vocabulary

EKKA: Exhibition. The annual Brisbane show.

Scatter: verb. To throw objects over an area so that they land apart from each other.

Field: noun. An area of land used for growing crops or keeping animals.

Rocky: adjective. With lots of rocks.

Choked. If something is being choked it stops breathing or living

The Story

Choose 5 people to read out the different voices. You may want to break your group into 2 if you have large numbers.



The Farmer *Mathew 13:1-23.*

Voice 1: Now listen! A farmer went out to **scatter** seed in a **field**. While the farmer was scattering the seed,

Voice 2: some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds.

Voice 3: Other seed fell on thin, **rocky** ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn't very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots.

Voice 4: Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked out the plants. So they did not produce any grain.

Voice 5: But a few seeds did fall on the good ground where the plants grew and produced thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was scattered.

Voice 1: Then Jesus said, "Listen, then, if you have ears!" Then Jesus told them: If you don't understand this story, you won't understand any other. The farmer sows God's message.

Voice 2: **The seeds that fall along the road** are the people who hear God's message. But **Satan** soon comes and takes it away.

Voice 3: **The seeds that fall on rocky ground** are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it straight away. But they don't have any roots, and they don't last long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them into trouble, they give up.

Voice 4: **The seeds that fell among the thorn bushes** are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life. They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything.

Voice 5: **The seeds that fell on good ground** are the people who hear the message and accept it. They produce thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was planted."

Divide into groups of 4. Each person chooses a part of the story to draw (see Table below) Then take turns, explaining the whole story using the pictures that you have drawn.

1. A farmer scattered some seeds on a path. The Birds ate the seed. (Voice 2)	3. Other seeds fell among thorn bushes and the thorn bushes choked the plants. (Voice 4).
2. Some seeds fell on rocky ground. The seeds grew but the sun burned the plants and they dried up. (Voice 3)	4. But some seeds fell in good soil and the plants sprouted, grew and produced grain. (Voice 5)

Discussion

The story of the seeds has a deeper meaning. It is about different ways people respond to hearing God's message. God's message is found in the Bible.

1. Look at the first picture. What does the message of God mean to these people?
2. Look at the second picture. These people accept God's message but what happens to these people when life gets hard?
3. Look at the third picture. Why don't these people produce fruit?
4. Look at the fourth picture. Why do these people produce so much fruit?
5. Which picture best describes you? Do you want to be like one of the other pictures? How do you become like a different picture?