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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, July 16, 2017

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#) [ **Summary:** *Parable of the Sower* ]

**Supplies Needed:** Show the pictures on last page of this PDF or bring a candy, cookie and fruit as props

**ASK** (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me what food this is? (Show piece of candy)
- How about this? Can you tell me what food this is? (Show chocolate chip cookie)
- OK, one more - what food is this? (Show apple)
- Even though all three of these foods are tasty, which one of these foods would you want to eat more of if you were getting ready for, say, an important sports game and wanted to be as healthy and ready as possible? (the apple - be prepared for other answers, though)
- That's right! You would want to eat the fruit because of the three foods, here, it is the one with the most nutrition and won't make you feel shaky after 20 minutes.

**TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- I ask about types of foods and which ones are healthier because in today's scripture story, Jesus is also talking about food - but he's talking about food that helps plants grow or not grow.
- Now, when I say "plant food" – what I'm really talking about is types of soil that either help or do not help plants grow.
- And in the story that Jesus tells, there are four types of plant food.
- But, what we find out in the story is that only one of those foods really helps the plants grow well.

- The other types of plant food in the story are like this piece of candy and the cookie – they might taste good, but they aren't the best food for us.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- One of the reasons Jesus tells this story about plant food is because he wants us to think about how we can better grow and nurture our trust in God.
- Just like some soils make plants grow better, and just like some foods help us feel better during an athletic event, there are also certain activities we can do that help us better know and trust God.
- Some of those activities that help us better know and trust God are prayer, reading and discussing Bible stories, and worshiping God together.
- The more we do these activities, the more our knowing and trusting of God will grow.
- And the more we know and trust God, the more of God we'll be able to share with others.
- That's the good news for today.
- Let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

Dear God,

**Thank you for Jesus...**

Thank you for Jesus...

**...who teaches us...**

...who teaches us...

**...how to better...**

...how to better...

**...know and trust you.**

...know and trust you.

**Amen**

