

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE PARABLES OF THE SOWER AND OF THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

*“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard of the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” (Luke 8:15)*

### Objectives

*Knowledge of God’s Will*

Jesus taught the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven through parables.

*Knowledge of God*

Jesus is the sower who has sown the seed of the gospel for all to hear.

*Good Work*

Hear the word of God and understand it to bear fruit. Shine for the Lord, and be rooted in the truth.

### Introduction: Understanding Parables

Jesus often used parables to teach a principle or concept through stories, often comparing one thing with another to make a point. Parables illustrate spiritual lessons in a way that plain language cannot.

#### A. The Parable of the Sower

Jesus used this parable to illustrate the different ways a person’s heart receives the word of God.

- The wayside: *Those who hear the word of the kingdom, but do not understand it.*
- The stony places: *They hear and immediately receive the truth with joy, but soon stumble and fall.*
- The thorny places: *The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word.*
- The good ground: *They hear the word with a noble and good heart and understand it.*

#### Life Application: Do I Bear Fruit for Christ in My Life?

We have received the word, but it is our responsibility to ensure that we “walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him” (Col 2:6–7). To do so, we must:

- *Abide in God:* We must stay connected to Jesus in our daily lives to receive strength from Him.
- *Be receptive to God’s word:* Receive it eagerly, meditate on it, keep it in our hearts, and practice it so that it becomes an integral part of our lives.
- *Maintain an intimate relationship with God:* This requires walking in the Spirit and allowing Him to take control of our thoughts, emotions, and our will.

#### B. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

The parable of the wheat and the tares is a two-fold warning. First, we must be wary of the “tares” around us, works of Satan designed to deceive us. Second, God’s judgment will come soon, and when it does, the tares will be thrown into the fire while the wheat will be separated and preserved.

#### Life Application: Reflect God’s Divine Nature and Be Rooted in the Truth

1. Because we live among worldly people, we must live in a way that reflects God’s divine nature with good works and good conduct (Mt 5:16).
2. If we are not rooted in the truth, it is easy to be pulled away from God. To defend ourselves, we must know the truth, defend it, and continuously draw upon God’s strength through the Holy Spirit.

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## Lesson 1 Homework Assignment

The Parables of the Sower and of the  
Wheat and the Tares

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Luke 8:15):

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1. What kind of heart is required for us to become “good ground”?
2. Explain the four types of ground and what they represent.
3. What three steps or actions are necessary to become “good ground” and bear fruit for God?
4. What two warnings does the parable of the wheat and the tares teach us?
5. In what two ways do we need to act on these warnings?
6. What kind of “tares” do you think are in your own life? How can you avoid them?