

THE SOWER

Narrator: Once there was a man who went out to sow corn.
(enter farmer. He scatters corn all around in the traditional manner...then leaves.)

Seed: Oh dear, I've landed on a path. There's just nothing for me to dig my roots into and wriggle underneath...Oh dear...
(enter bird)

Bird: Oh great...he's dropped some on the path..*(to the audience)* all the better for us birds eh? There's plenty here for me and the missus an' the wee uns back in the nest. *(exits with seed)*.

Narrator: Some of it landed on rocky ground...*(enter seed)*

Seed: Well the soil is nice an' thin here. I'll not be long in sprouting...*(enter sun.)* Oh dear, that sun is so hot. *(seed sprouts then wilts.)*

Narrator: When the sun came up it burnt the young plants, and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. *(exit plant)* Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes.

Seed: Oh great, these plants are doing well (sprouts) I'm beginning to grow too. *(enter thorns on either side)*

Thorn: Oh what a lovely day. I must just stretch myself a bit. *(thorns on either side entwine themselves around the growing seedling.)*

Seed: Oh oh where's the light? It's getting very dark. Those thorns are growing so quickly, the big bullies...oh what are they doing? Ahhhh

Narrator: The thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants...But some seeds fell on good soil.

Seed: Ahh, growing is lovely, (*sprouts*) I'll soon be a big plant with lots of grains.

Narrator: Some of these plants produced a hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty (*enter narrator*). Jesus told us, 'Listen if you have ears and learn what the parable of the Sower means. Those who hear the message about the kingdom, but do not understand it, are like the seeds that fell along the path. (*enter seed*) The evil one (*enter bird*) comes and snatches away what was sown in them. The seeds that fell on rocky ground stand for those who receive the message gladly as soon as they hear it, (*sprouting and waving happily*) but it does not sink deep into them and they don't last long. (*enter sun*). So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. (*plant wilts and dies*). The seeds that fell among thorn bushes stand for those who hear the message, (*enter seed sprouting with thorns on either side*) but the worries about this life and the love for riches choke the message and they don't bear fruit. (*exit plant, them thorns*). And the seeds sown in the good ground stand for those who hear the message and understand it. (*enter good seed sprouting*) They bear fruit, some as much as a hundred, others sixty, and others thirty.