



# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER



**THE DIOCESE  
OF SHEFFIELD**  
Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated



# *Prayer*

**Spend 5 minutes in prayer. Use this opening prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.**

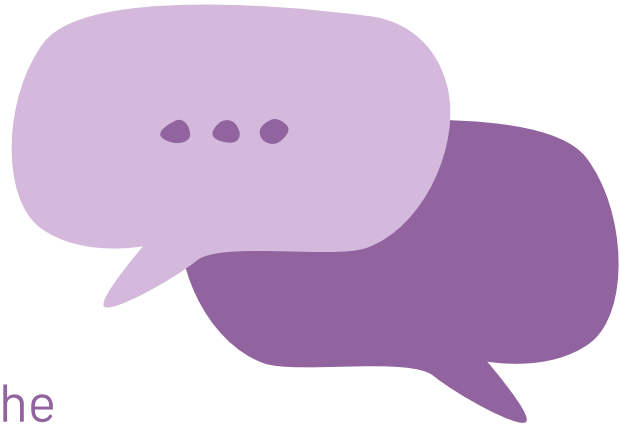
Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see and open our ears to hear where you are in these scriptures. We pray your Holy Spirit living in us would reveal its wisdom to us and point us towards you and how we may be generous and live generously. Amen!

# *Reading*

**Before you discuss the  
questions on the next page  
as a group,  
spend 5 minutes reading  
aloud as a group or listening  
to Luke 13:1-9 & 18-23**



# LET'S *Talk*



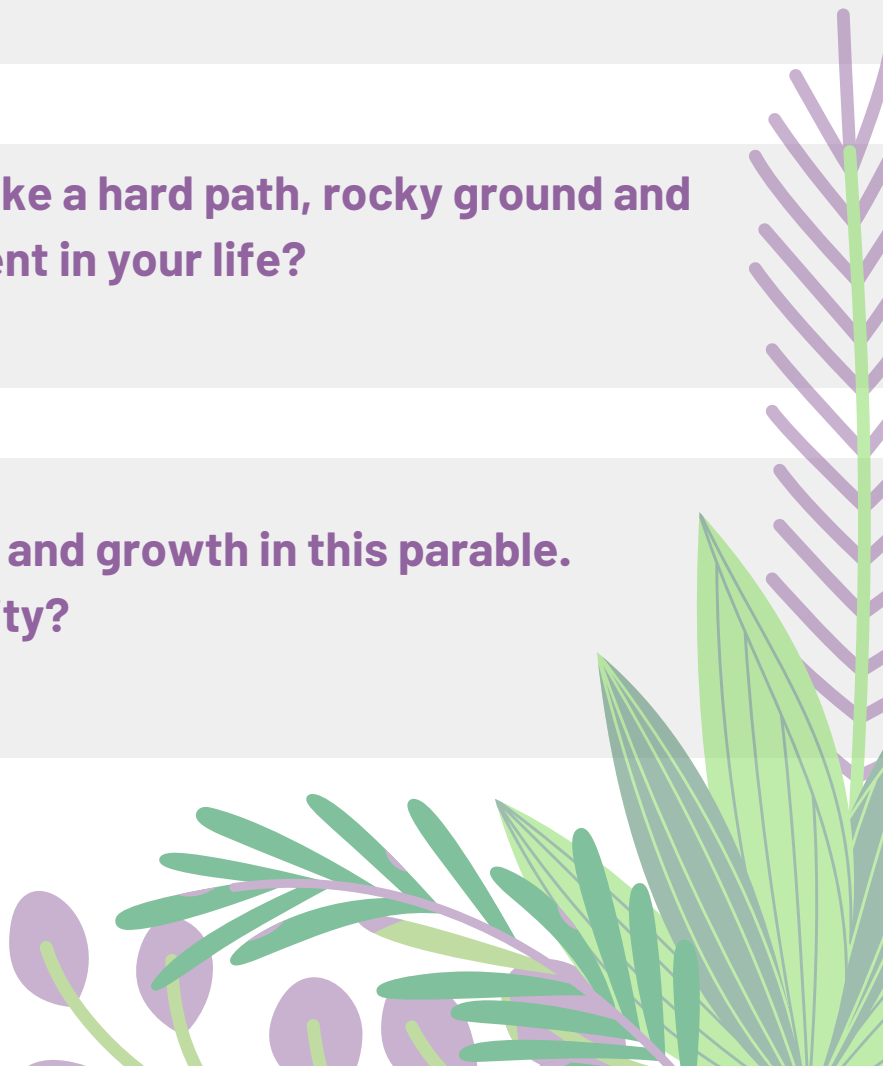
Spend 15 minutes discussing the questions below

**What do the four soils represent? How might they apply to your context?**

**Jesus talks of a farmer knowingly spreading seeds over poor soil. What do you make of this?**

**This parable talks of obstacles like a hard path, rocky ground and thorns. What might they represent in your life?**

**There are themes of fruitfulness and growth in this parable. How might these link to generosity?**





# *Reflection*

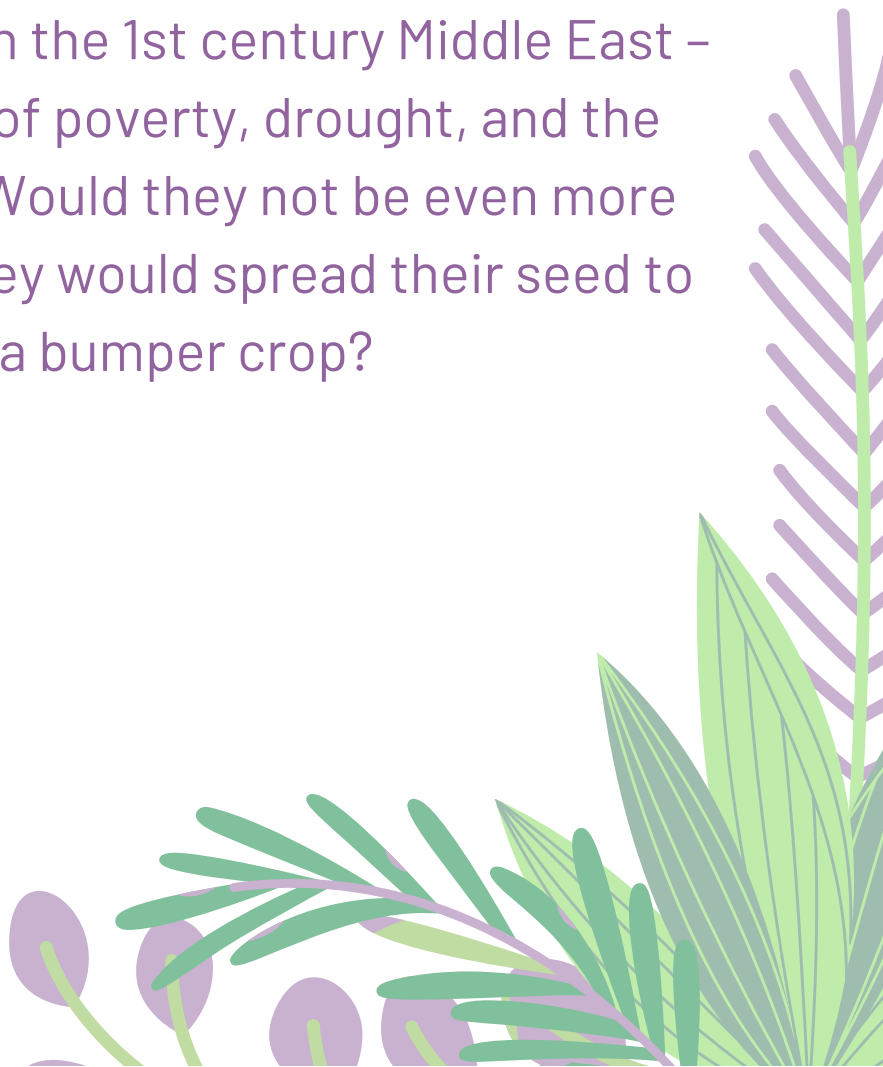


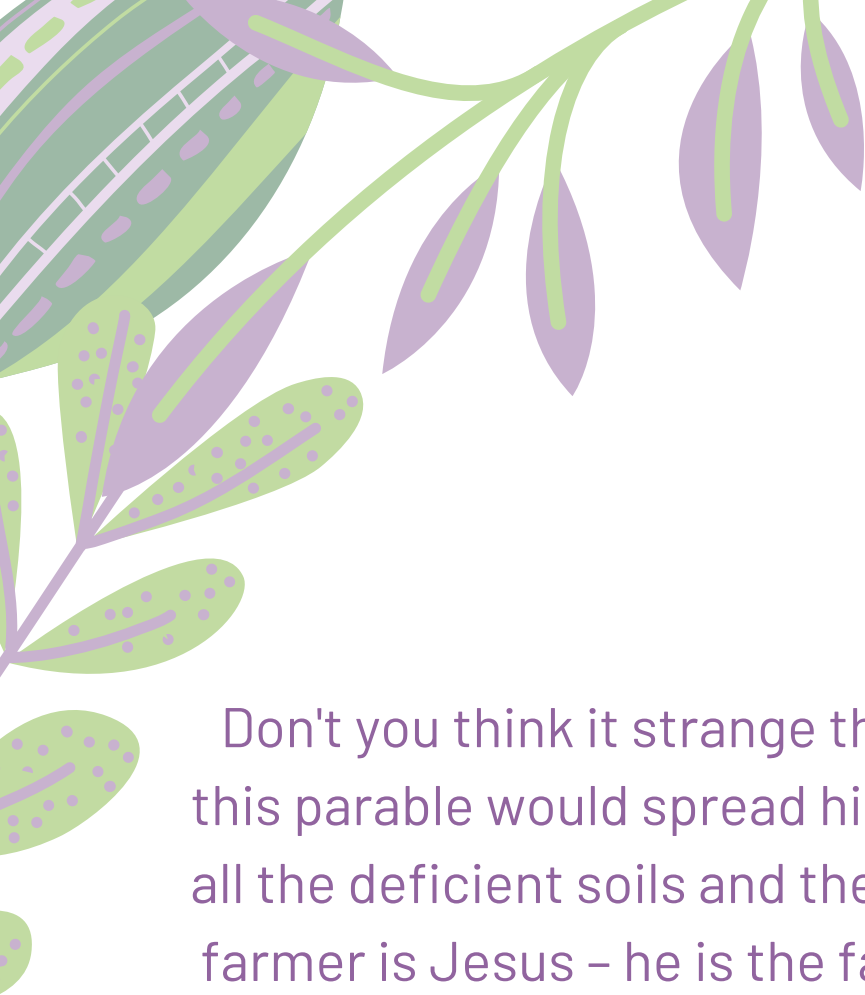
Spend 15 minutes in reflection as a group. As part of this time please read the reflection below and/or listen to the sermon from Malcolm Chamberlain (Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham)

# *What does Jesus say about generosity in this parable?*

Take a minute and think of any situation where you have to decide where to invest your resources. Whether this is at work, in relationships or even in choosing where to live, I would bet that you would take the time to find the best and most fruitful use of these resources.

Think about a farmer in the 1st century Middle East – with the challenges of poverty, drought, and the harsh environment. Would they not be even more careful with where they would spread their seed to achieve a bumper crop?





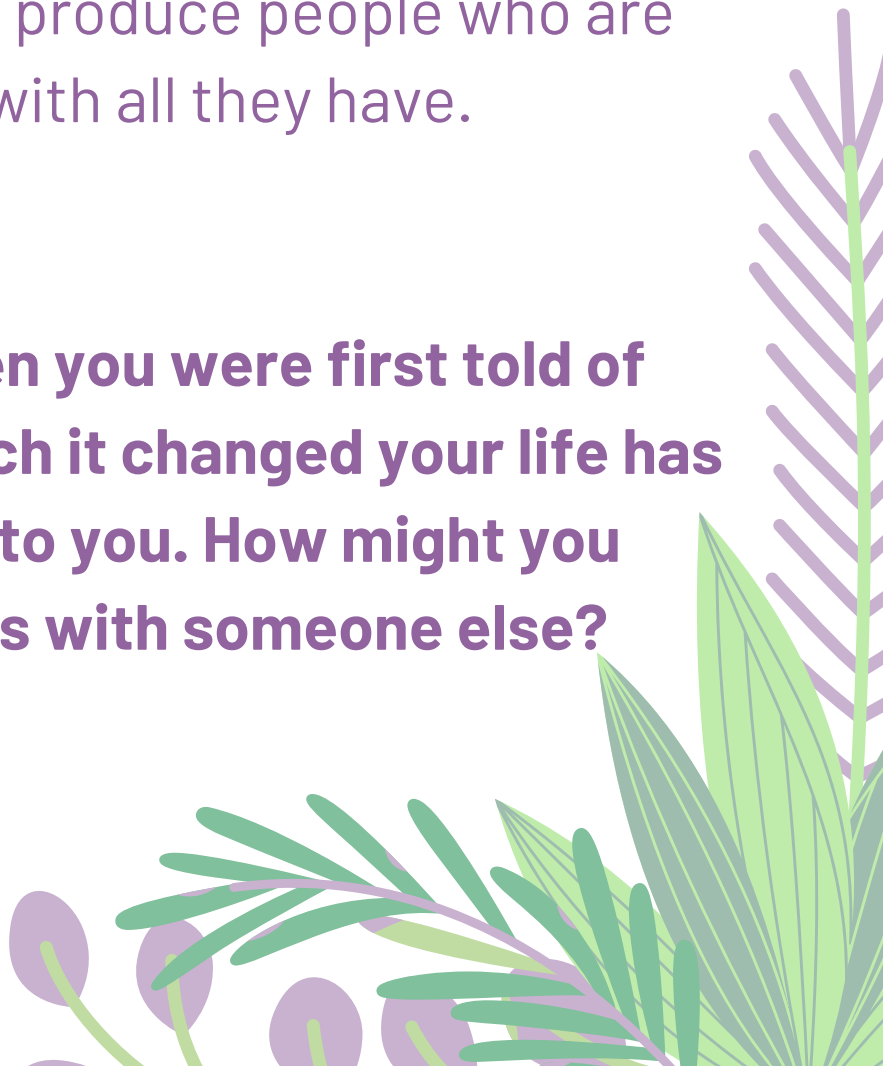
Don't you think it strange then that the farmer in this parable would spread his seed on the path and all the deficient soils and the infertile ground? This farmer is Jesus – he is the farmer who generously spreads seeds on all types of soil to give every seed a chance to bear fruit. In his infinite grace, Jesus has given himself, and his words have fallen on all kinds of people from all backgrounds and have a chance to bear fruit.

He has made no distinction between us despite our appearance, our environment, or where we are at in life. God is a good God, and God's generosity knows no limit.

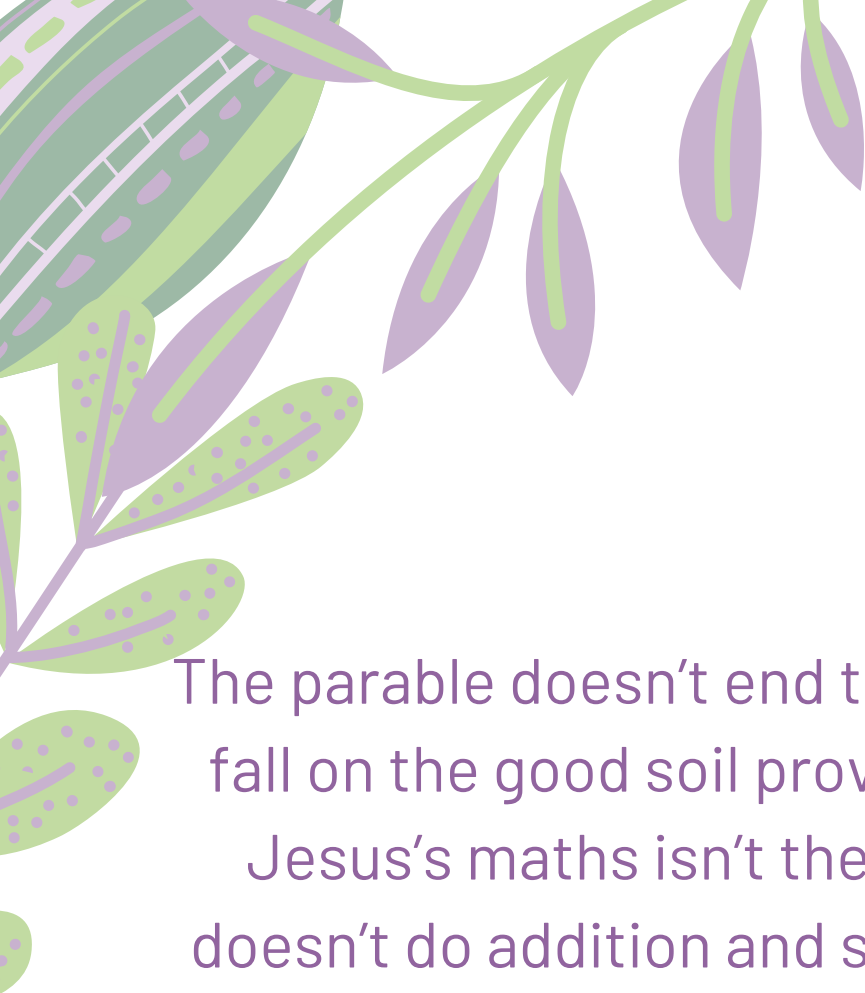
## *How might we respond?*

A farmer does not sow his seed without expecting a return on his efforts. Through Jesus giving of himself to us, there is an expectation that we might bear fruit and be generous in broadcasting the word of God. Jesus offers an invitation to share the good news of God's kingdom with those around you to change lives— knowing that lives changed by that gospel will produce people who are generous with all they have.

**Think about when you were first told of Jesus and how much it changed your life has been generous to you. How might you reciprocate this with someone else?**







The parable doesn't end there. The seeds that fall on the good soil provide a bumper crop.

Jesus's maths isn't the same as ours. He doesn't do addition and subtraction; he does multiplication to the thirty, sixty and hundred-fold. Generosity isn't a zero-sum game. If we dedicate our lives to generosity, we can impact many lives outside of our own and encourage others to do the same.

**Where can you in your job, your community or a relationship can you make a lasting impact to the thirty, sixty, or hundred-fold?**

# Prayer

**Spend 5 minutes in prayer and gratitude. Use this closing prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.**

Jesus, we thank you that you are the farmer in this parable. Despite plenty of better choices or opportunities, you chose to reveal yourself to each of us. We pray that your words would fall on the good soil of our hearts and that these words would take root. We pray that the fruit would be generosity and that we could impact the thirty, sixty and hundred-fold through this generosity. In your name, we pray Jesus, Amen!

