

Hello again Sunday School.

I hope all is well with you and your lovely families. Remember, if there's anything you want to chat with me or Mother Juliet about, please contact us via the St. Swithuns' website or through the Sunday School WhatsApp group. We do love to hear from you!

If I were to ask you to list some of the things that make you happy, I wonder what you'd say. Well, I did ask some of you. Or at least I got some of your grown-ups to ask you and tell me your answers. So what did you say? Did you say: 'Getting the biggest, best toy better than any of my other toys makes me happy!?' Nope. Did you say: 'I think I would be happiest if I was rich and famous.'? Nope. Here are some of the things that make you guys happy:

Camping (Bethany)

My secret diary (Lucy)

Spending time with my family (Lily and Adrian)

Playing with my friends (Amari)

Food (Shae)

Talking to friends (Kiera)

Singing (Kyleigh)

Riding my bike (Zara)

Mummy (Cade)

Stories (Hannah)

What fantastic answers. It made me happy just reading them!

If we look at your brilliant list of ideas we can see that so much of the time it is little, everyday things that bring us happiness. The smallest thing can bring happiness into a person's day. A kind word or action can change how someone is feeling more than you realise and turn their day from a sad one to a happy one.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. There's a link to a video of the Parable here if you'd like to watch it https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO_Ls2ERs. Jesus explained to his disciples that those people who hear God's word and let it grow in them are like the seed which **'fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown'**. As Christians, we can show our love of God through kind words and actions towards other people. Of course, sometimes people will not be in the mood to hear us. Sometimes they will listen but quickly think of other things and forget our words, but sometimes those words or actions will be exactly what that person needed to hear.

We can plant seeds like this every day. Just like the farmer in Jesus' parable we might not always know exactly how every seed we plant turns out, but that shouldn't stop us from sharing God's love. The farmer in the parable 'scatters' the seed – in other words they throw it around. When you share your kind words and actions you can 'scatter' them too.

Think of the things from our list that make you happy. See if you can do something today to make someone else happy. (Actually, you and your grown-ups already made me happy when you got back to me with your brilliant replies!) Remember, a tiny act of kindness could plant a seed in that person's heart; one kind word that makes a difference to their whole day, their whole week, their whole year or their whole life.

There are some 'Parable of the Sower' activities for you to do on the next pages if you'd like to.

May the Lord keep you wonderful children all safe and healthy and HAPPY.

Amen

C Z C T F E E T Y L X C E G A
 X O B I N R O L U F O E L R F
 L X M A T L I F U N M L B A F
 S A M P E E T E S S Q T A C E
 F U I R A H H I N V Q N T I C
 H D A D G S D T F D Q E I O T
 D N C U R E S L A C L G R U I
 T Z O F R O Z I O P L Y A S O
 C H Q A R S C J O V M U H I N
 T Q T K I N D L Y N I Y C J A
 R E L B A I M A I W A N S B T
 C O U R T E O U S Y A T G R E
 H L A E R B H M N I G M E C Z
 D N G F R L Z L Y E Q F M Z C
 D E T R A E H D N I K N V M H

AFFECTIONATE
 COMPASSIONATE
 COURTEOUS
 GRACIOUS
 KINDLY
 THOUGHTFUL

AMIABLE
 CONSIDERATE
 FRIENDLY
 HUMANE
 LOVING
 TOLERANT

CHARITABLE
 CORDIAL
 GENTLE
 KINDHEARTED
 SYMPATHETIC



sower



seeds



birds



stones



sun



thorns



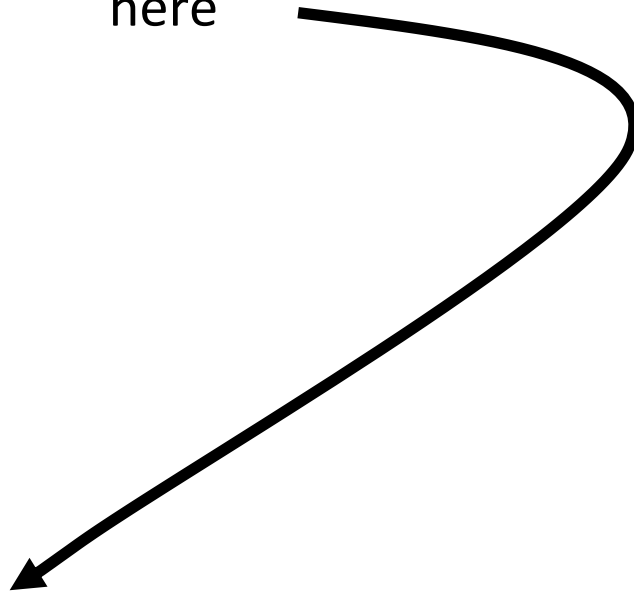
grow

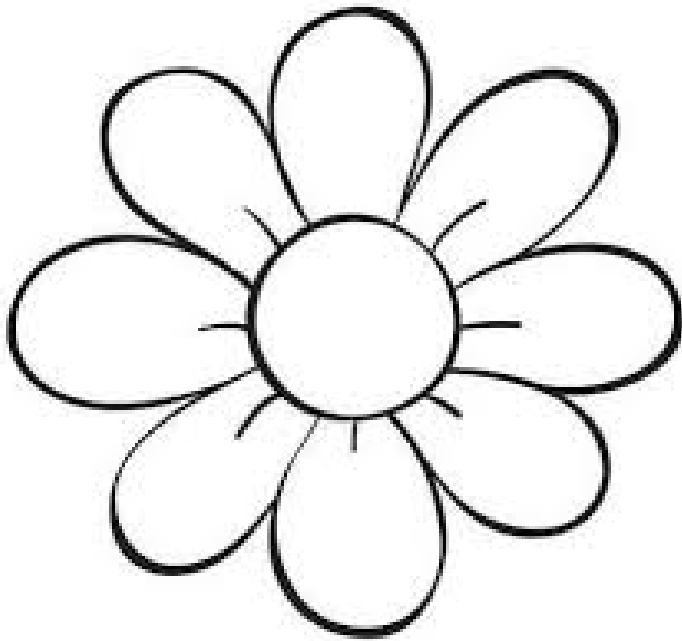
Re-read the Parable of the Sower or watch this Youtube video animation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO_Ls2ERs

Now see if you can re-write the story or tell it to your grown up.

There are some words to help you here

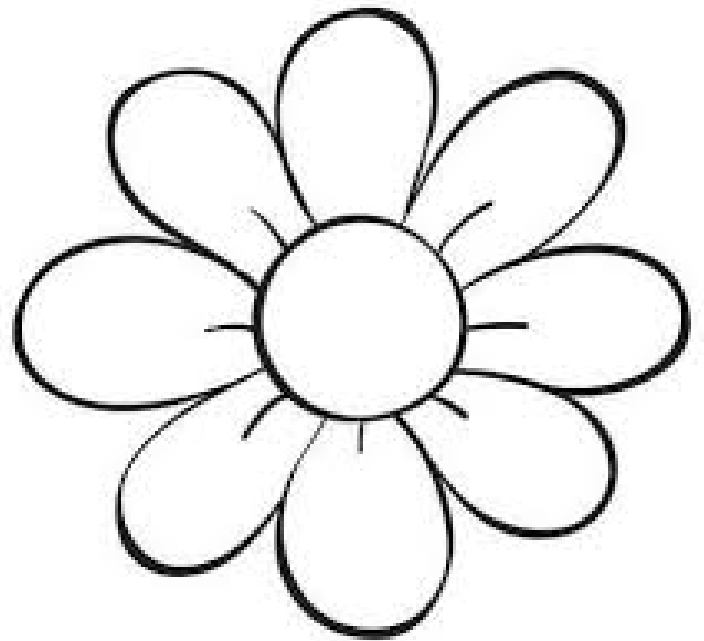




smile

give

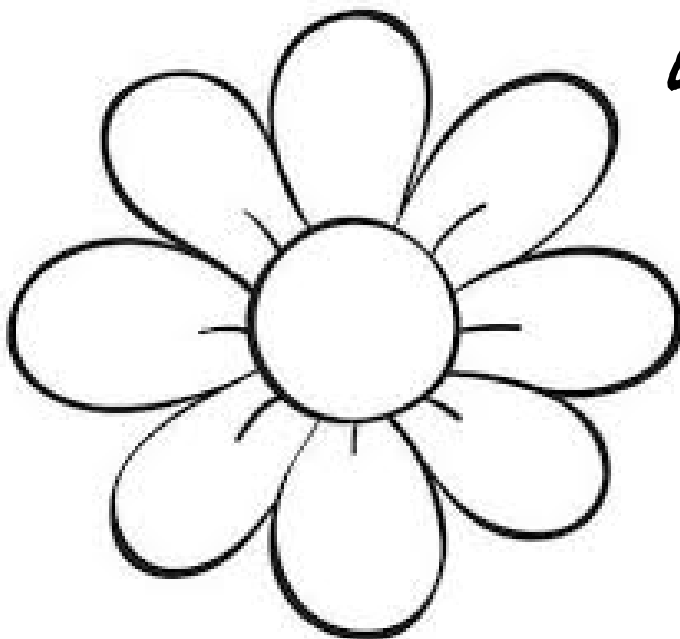
thank



help

care

include



share

As you colour each flower, think about the ways that you could make someone happy today. The words might help you to come up with some ideas.