PARABLE OF THE SOWER EXPERIMENT

See Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:3-9; or Luke 8:4-15

Materials:

1 flower pot or tray of soil with hard-packed earth (or patch of ground outdoors)

1 flower pot or tray with lots of stones and a thin layer of soil underneath (or a comparable patch of ground outdoors)

1 flower pot or tray of soil with prickly weeds growing in it (or a comparable patch of ground outdoors)

OR just put some brambles into a pot or tray as an illustration of how inhospitable this ground would be for seeds 1 flower pot or tray of soil with good soil (or a comparable patch of ground outdoors) seeds for planting such as wheat berries or rye grass (wheat berries should sprout in 3 days if kept moist)

Procedure:

1. Make sure that the trays of soil (or patches of ground outdoors) can receive plenty of sunlight.

- 2. Plant the seeds by sprinkling them on top of the soil.
- 3. Water the soil and observe what happens over the following days.

Discussion:

- 1. What makes good soil or ground for growing plants?
- 2. What can people do to make soil better? (dig it up, remove stones, pull out weeds, add compost or fertilizer, etc.)
- 3. Talk about why hard-packed earth, stony ground with little soil, and ground with weeds aren't ideal planting conditions.

Further Discussion:

1. Think about parallels between preparing soil for planting seeds and preparing our minds for planting truths.