



WHAT DO PLANTS NEED?

Introduction

In the parable of the sower, seeds fell on four kinds of ground, didn't they? And the seeds sprouted and grew into plants in three kinds of ground: stony ground, ground with thorns, and the good ground. But the young plants in the stony ground died, because they didn't have good roots. And thorns choked the plants growing among them. Only the plants in the good ground were able to grow up healthy and strong and give fruit. (Note: If you wish to review this parable, see Matthew 13 or Mark 4.)

Materials

4 -5 identical plants in pots of the same size and having the same soil mixture

Procedure

1. Give one plant ample water, light, and warmth.
2. Give the second plant water and warmth, but no light. (Put it in a closet or cupboard).
3. Give the third plant water and light, but no warmth. (Put it outside in a cold climate or in the refrigerator for periods of time.)
4. Give the fourth plant light and warmth, but no water.
5. Observe the plants each day for a week and note the results.
6. Optional: Repot a fifth plant in vermiculite or gravel (giving it water, light, and warmth) to see what happens when a plant isn't grown in soil.

Discussion:

1. *Ask:* What makes a plant grow? Is it the warm soil? The sunshine? Rain falling onto the soil?
2. Plants need water, light, and warmth, don't they? Who provides these?
3. A farmer or a gardener plants seeds when it is a good time of year to have the right amount of water, light, and warmth to help them grow.
4. When we grow plants indoors, we try to make sure they are near a window or under special lights. And we need to give them water, don't we?
5. But who gives us the water, the light, and warmth? These are from the Lord the Creator!