

Materials I Need:

Legend:

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure

Memory Work:

“Where is your faith?” He asked the disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him.” Luke 8:25

Aim Questions:

1. What were the four kinds of soil Jesus named, and what did each represent?
2. Who in the story knew without a doubt that Jesus was the Son of God and had all authority?
3. What miracle did Jesus do for Jairus?
4. Over what does Jesus have authority? Does He have authority over your concerns?
5. Which kind of soil would Jesus say your heart is like?

 **Hook:**

Mystery Word (*Discussion*). Read the definition of **authority** from a dictionary without telling the students what actual word it defines. Have students try to guess what word you’re defining. After students guess the word "authority," discuss its meaning and paraphrase a simple working definition to use in class. Write it on the board. A good one is, “**the right to be in charge.**”

Seed for Thought (*Object Lesson*). As students come to class, distribute sunflower seeds. Give a handful to some students and only one or two seeds to others. When students are all seated, take seeds away from the students who have only one or two and give several more to the students who have many. Then read Luke 8:18, “Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him.” What did Jesus mean when He said these words? Have students ponder this question during the Bible Adventure.

Little Bitty Seeds (*Snack*). Make thick apple slices for students to eat without removing the core. Have students see how many seeds they can find in their portion. Why does fruit have seeds? Discuss how plants grow from seeds and how one little seed has the potential to produce a large amount of fruit. If just one of these seeds were planted in good soil, how many apples would it produce?

Boo! (*Activity*). Create a scary story with all the students participating. The teacher begins with one sentence. A student then adds the next sentence. Go around the circle until all have contributed. (*It would be good to establish some boundaries such as no gore. Also pick a topic, like a bad day at school, a camping trip, etc.*) Just like in the story we just created, some very frightening things happen in our Bible Adventure today.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



The Demoniac (Illustration/Overhead). "When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet shouting..." Luke 8:27-28, **BLUK07.GF1.**



The Demoniac Healed (Illustration/Overhead). "...When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid." Luke 8:35, **BLUK07.GF2.**

Bible Adventure -

Jesus' message about the Kingdom of God was spreading throughout all of Judea, Samaria and Galilee. People from everywhere were talking about what Jesus was doing and what He had said about God's Kingdom. Needless to say, there were many people who did not agree with Jesus' words. They doubted what He was teaching, or they questioned **His authority** to make such claims. Jesus knew that all of this was going on, so He told a parable to His disciples and the people who were following Him. Many of you may be familiar with this parable so I will let you help me.

There were **four kinds of soils** in Jesus' parable. Can anyone tell me what they are?

- *The first soil is the path or road. It was soil that had been hardened by people walking on it constantly.*
- *The second soil was the rocky or shallow soil. It was a thin layer of soil over solid rock that made it difficult for it to keep much moisture.*
- *The third soil was thorny soil. This was soil that had weeds in it to the point that they choked out any grain that might have grown.*
- *The last soil was good soil. It was fertile with really very little in it to hinder the growth of a crop.*

Now, do you remember what the seed and the soils in Jesus' parables represented? Jesus was explaining how different people would respond to His Good News about the Kingdom of God. It also has application today for how you accept and apply God's Word in your own heart. The first heart is so hard that the Word of God just lays there until the devil quickly snatches it away. The second heart accepts God's Word and even sprouts up. However, it has no staying power so the Word is never allowed to produce lasting fruit in that person's life. The thorny heart accepts the Word, but does not give it room to grow. This person never produces fruit for God's Kingdom because they have too many other things that take their attention away from God's Word and purposes.

You see, Jesus was helping us and the disciples who were there to understand the different reactions that people had to His preaching. Some people would not accept Jesus' message. However, the last soil speaks of people who did believe and were being changed into subjects of God's Kingdom. They were telling others about Jesus and beginning to live like Kingdom people. Remember the attitudes and actions that Jesus described in Luke chapter six?

Jesus gave a warning to those who understood His words in Luke 8:18. He said, "Therefore take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him." Jesus wants us to understand that the more we learn of God's Kingdom, the more responsibility and insight God will give us. Those who do not apply themselves to understanding God and His purposes won't even be able to retain what they have learned because it will be taken away.

The next three miracles that are written down by Luke give more proof to Jesus' authority and reliability in saying the things He did. The first one is when He calmed **the storm at sea**. Most of you know about this. Let's read Luke 8:22-25 quickly to brush up on this event (*teacher reads passage*).

Here are two things that we can learn from this passage. First, Jesus must have had great authority. None of us, not one person on the face of this earth, has the authority to tell the weather what to do and have it obey instantly. Jesus' words about the Kingdom of God must be true.

Second, remember what we just read in Luke 8:18. The disciples were not done learning or growing in their faith by any means. They may have begun to feel comfortable, as if they knew it all. Jesus showed them that they had much more to learn. As they stood on the deck of that ship He asked them, "Where is your faith?" Even they had not realized how powerful this Man was whom they had been following.

Jesus and the disciples sailed on across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. There were many more Gentiles than Jews on this side of the lake. Obviously Jesus wanted them to hear about the Kingdom of God, too. As Jesus stepped ashore, a **man who was demon-possessed** met Him (*place Illustration BLUK07.GF1*). The man was a frightful sight. He had not worn clothes for a long time and lived among the nearby tombs. The man fell down at Jesus' feet and yelled in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" What an extraordinary thing to say. Jesus had already encountered many people in His ministry who doubted Him, but the demons in this man knew exactly who Jesus was and the power He possessed. Jesus asked the man what his name was. "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. The **demons begged Jesus** not to order them back into the Abyss. The Bible teaches us that the Abyss was a kind of holding place or prison that those inside are sealed into until they are released. The demons dreaded the fact that Jesus had full authority to send them there.

On the hillside nearby a herd of pigs was grazing. The demons begged Jesus to send them into the pigs. Jesus did and the **pigs immediately rushed down the hillside** into the lake and were drowned. The men tending the herd saw all this happen and ran through the town and the countryside telling all who would listen what they had seen and heard from Jesus. The people came from all around and found the man who had been possessed sitting at Jesus' feet and acting completely normal (*place Illustration BLUK07.GF2*). They couldn't believe it. Never had they seen the kind of power Jesus had just displayed. The man had been totally under the control of the demons. No one had been able to help him. The man's behavior had probably been so frightening that no one even dared to try. Suddenly Jesus appeared on the scene, spoke the words, and the demons were history. The people were very frightened and asked Jesus to leave them. Some may not have wanted Jesus to stay and keep delivering people from demon-possession because demon-worship was common in that area. Jesus prepared to leave, and the man who had been delivered begged to be allowed to go along with Him. Instead, Jesus sent the man on a very special mission. He asked the man to go back to his hometown and tell anyone who would listen what God had done for him. Jesus wanted the news of the Kingdom of God to be spread through this man, and it was. This man, who had experienced the power of the Kingdom first hand, did what Jesus asked him to do.

Jesus returned to Galilee and was welcomed by a crowd of people who had been expecting Him. A man named **Jairus, a ruler of the Jewish synagogue**, came and fell at Jesus' feet and asked Him to come to his house to see his 12-year-old daughter, who was dying. That Jairus would even approach Jesus was unusual. As an official of the synagogue, he was risking disapproval of his fellow Jews by doing this. He may have even debated with himself before doing it. It seems he waited until the situation was desperate and his daughter near death before he went to the only One who could really help.

As Jesus was on the way to Jairus' house, the crowds were so great that they almost crushed Him. Among the crowd was a **woman who had a very serious illness**. She had been bleeding for twelve years. Because of the bleeding, she was ceremonially unclean to the Jewish people. She was unable to enter the temple to worship. She sought Jesus out through the crowd, somehow knowing that here was One who could help her at last. She came up behind Jesus, reached out a trembling hand and touched the edge of His cloak. Instantly her bleeding stopped. Now Jesus knew full well who had touched Him and why, but there were some things He wanted to teach the people. "Who touched Me?" He asked. "I know the power has gone out from Me." Everyone near Jesus kept denying having touched Him, and the woman kept silent, too, perhaps not wanting to draw attention to her uncleanness. At last the woman fell at His feet and admitted she was the one. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." It is interesting that the woman had suffered from her illness as long as Jairus' daughter had been alive. Jesus was demonstrating to Jairus that this sickly woman was just as valuable to Him as Jairus' daughter was. Perhaps Jesus wanted Jairus to see that He was establishing God's Kingdom in an unexpected way and that His healing of the unclean woman was a part of that process.

While Jesus was speaking to the woman, someone arrived from Jairus' house and told Jairus his daughter was dead. Imagine his astonishment when Jesus told him not to be afraid but to believe, and his daughter would be healed. The crowd arrived at Jairus' home and found friends and family weeping

and mourning for the girl. “Stop wailing,” Jesus told them. “She is not dead but asleep.” The people laughed at Jesus. Probably they thought He was crazy. They knew death when they saw it. Jesus went into the girl’s room with her parents and a few of His disciples. He took the girl by the hand and told her to get up. Immediately the girl’s spirit returned to her and she stood up! Can you picture it? To Jesus, death is no big deal. The awesome Son of God showed that under His authority, death is no more harmful than an afternoon nap! No wonder the Kingdom News was spreading.

Luke has recorded for us in chapter eight three important proofs of Jesus’ authority: authority over the elements of weather, authority over demonic power, and finally, authority over death itself. These events were recorded and have been preserved by God over thousands of years so that you and I might have the opportunity to hear of them and place our faith and trust in His Son. God holds us responsible for the decisions we make about Jesus. Will you place your faith in Him like the man delivered from demons and the woman who was healed of her bleeding? Or will you be like the ones who asked Jesus to leave because of fear or disbelief? It’s your choice.



Look:



Demonic Activity (Discussion). Our Bible Adventure today told of a demon-possessed man who was delivered by Jesus. Often people may talk of stories of demon-possession, and these discussions can be very frightening. However, we must be careful to remember what God’s Word says about who God is. We, as Christians, should not fear, because His power alone is what protects us and is all we need to be safe from Satan. I John 4:4 tells us that “greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.” That means that we have God’s power in us and it’s stronger than anything this world can ever bring against it. James 4:7 expressly tells us to “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” How does the world today tell us to deal with Satan’s threats? (*Incantations, charms, etc.*) If you want the reaction Jesus received from the devil, Jesus Christ is the One you need to know.



The Sower, the Seed, and the Heart (Storybook). Each student needs booklet **BLUK07.GF3**. Cut out the patterns from the last page and place them on the appropriate pages of the book. Have the students read the story for clues about where the cutouts should go. Glue on some seeds (*birdseed would work well*). Finish by coloring.



‘Word of God’ Seed Packet (Craft). Cut out entire packet on **BLUK07.GF4 Pg 1**. Fold toward wrong side on remaining lines. Glue side and bottom flaps in place. Cut out the Word of God slips from **BLUK07.GF4 Pg 2**. Glue birdseed or sunflower seeds next to the verses. Put verses in the “seed” packet. Add more seeds if you wish.



Journey with Jesus (Journal). Encourage students to make appropriate entries in their journals. Any disciple might write something like this: *Jesus is amazing! We were boating across the lake and a terrible storm came up. We were really scared, but Jesus was just sleeping. We woke Him up and He stopped the storm, just by telling it to stop! Even a storm obeys Jesus! That’s not the most amazing thing we saw, either. Later on, He raised a girl from the dead! I’m beginning to realize that Jesus is in charge of all Creation.*



Authority over Wind and Rain (Role-play). Supply a few students with loaded squirt guns and have the rest make folded paper fans. Read the story from Luke 8:22-25. Have students listen for cues from the story to play their “part” of the storm. Notice the amazement of the people who saw this miracle. Why were they so surprised?



Heart and Soil (Worksheet). Have students cut out **BLUK07.GF5 Pg. 2** and paste the correct type of soil represented by the response of each person’s heart to Christ in each of the pictures on **BLUK07.GF5 Pg. 1**. Answers will vary but will hopefully provide for a good discussion.



Pigs in a Panic (Craft). Luke 8:32,33 tells us about the panic of a herd of pigs. Have students follow the directions on **BLUK07.GF6 Pg. 2** to complete **BLUK07.GF6 Pg. 1**. Discuss why the pigs jumped into the lake and drowned. Also discuss Jesus’ wisdom, power and authority.



Took:



Greater is He that is In You (Song).



Seed for Thought (Discussion). Review Luke 8:18. Do you remember from the story what Jesus meant by this statement? (*Jesus wants us to understand that the more we learn of God's Kingdom, the more responsibility and insight God will give us. Those who do not apply themselves to understanding God and His purposes won't even be able to retain what they have learned because it will be taken away*). When we hear God's Word, what must we do? When we try to understand the Word, what will God do for us? What happens to people who hear God's Word, but continually reject its message?



Authority of Jesus (Worksheet). These pictures all have something to do with one of today's stories where Jesus proved His "right to be in charge." He showed His authority over the weather in story #1, over demonic power in story #2 and over death itself in story #3. Put the appropriate number under each picture. Finish by drawing a picture of yourself, **BLUK07.GF7**.

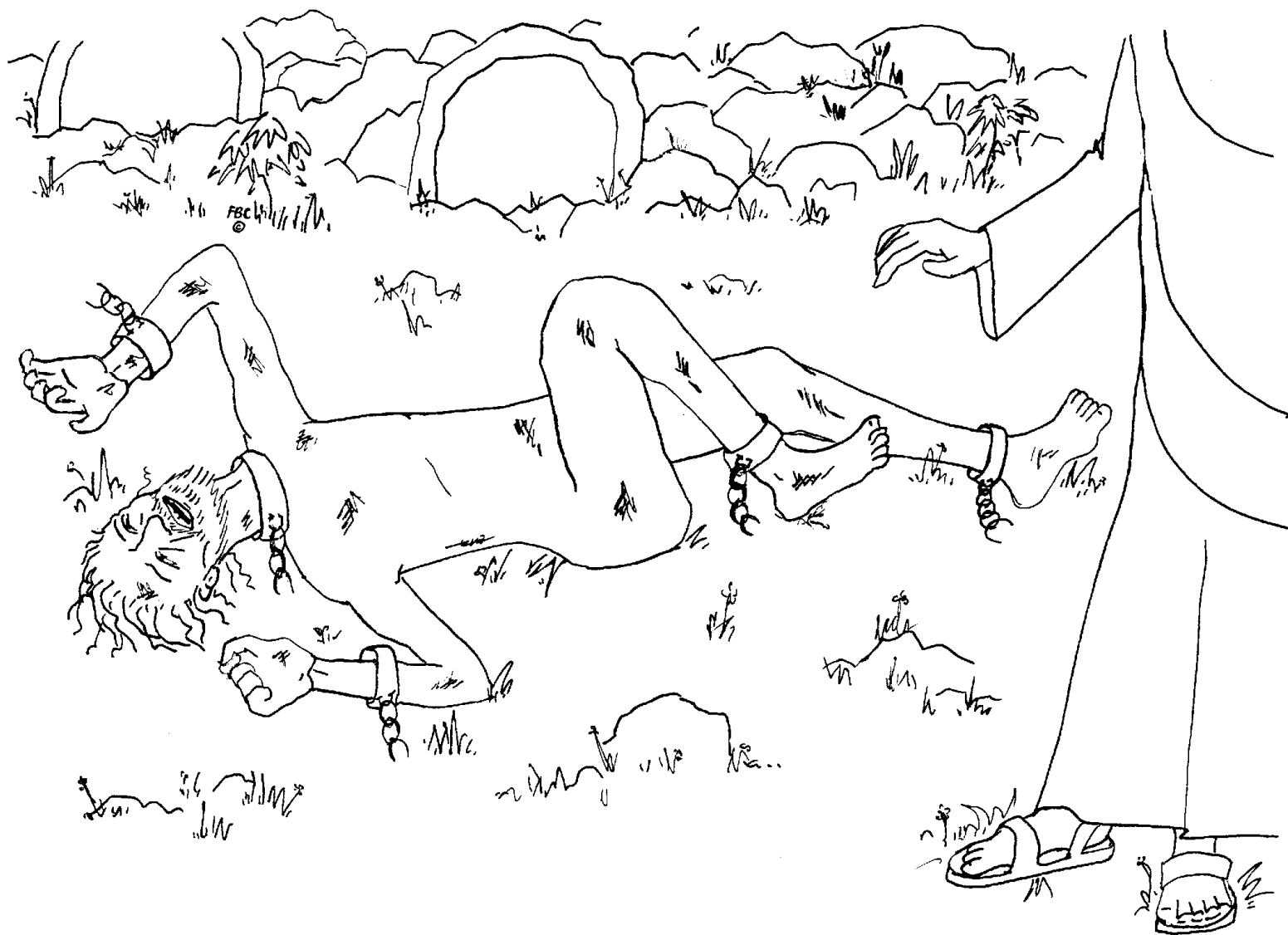


Nature Walk (Activity/Craft). Divide the class into groups, each one representing a different setting from the sower parable (*seed trampled & birds eating, choked by thorns & small plants, rocky ground, good & moist soil*). Have the students go outside to collect items for a nature collage with which to represent each of the above described settings. It would be good to do this on butcher paper and put up around the room with a verse to describe each. When all are posted, students could write their names on the paper that best represents their own hearts.



Testimonies. In Luke 8:39, Jesus told the man who had been delivered from the legion of demons to "return home and tell how much God has done for you." Then the man "told all over town how much Jesus had done for him." Jesus wants us to tell how much He has done for us, too. What miracles has God done in your lives this week? Did you realize it was His work? Did you thank Him?

The Demoniac



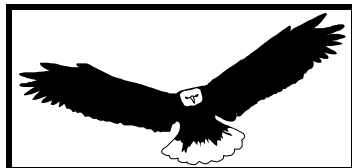
Luke 8:28

The Demoniac Healed



Luke 8:35

Cut on the dotted line to remove this page. Cut out these pictures and glue them into your book. Clues in the story will tell you where to put them.



The Sower, The Seeds, and the Heart

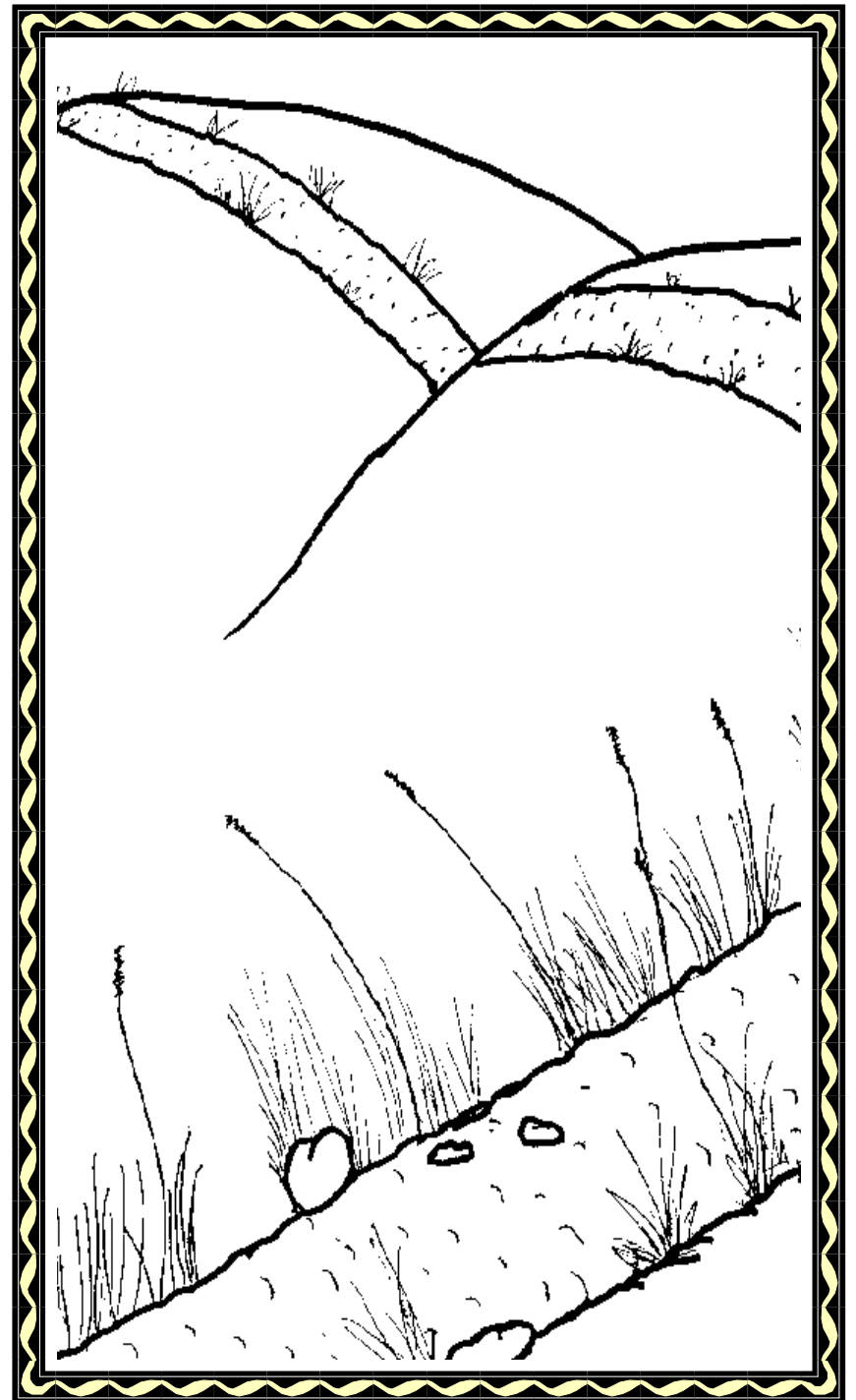


Some seed fell on a path
one day
As a farmer sowed his crop.
The people came and trampled
some,
The birds ate the rest up.

A heart like this soil hears the
Word,
But it does not believe.
The devil takes the Word away,
So truth is not received.

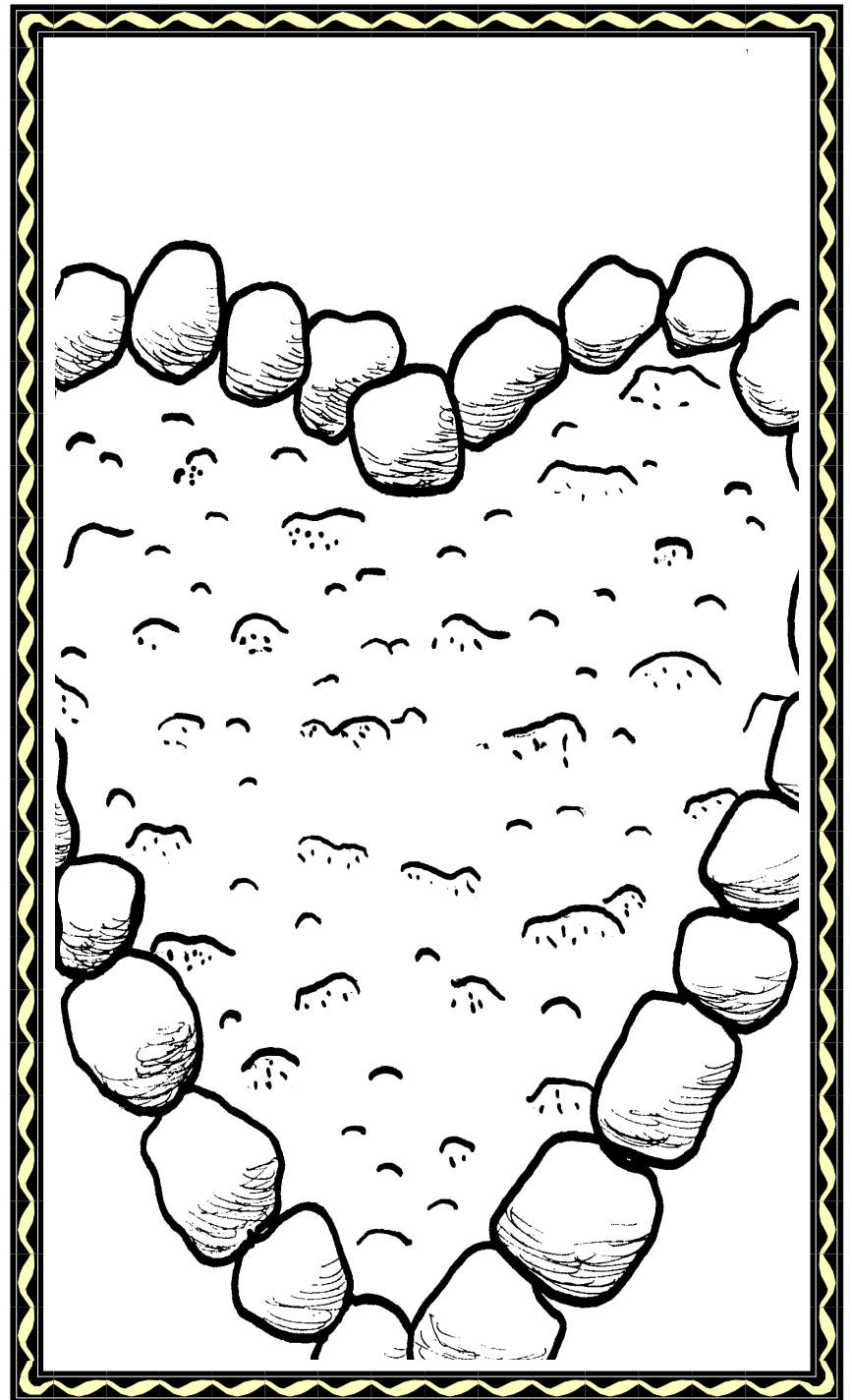
But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:15
To all by living right.



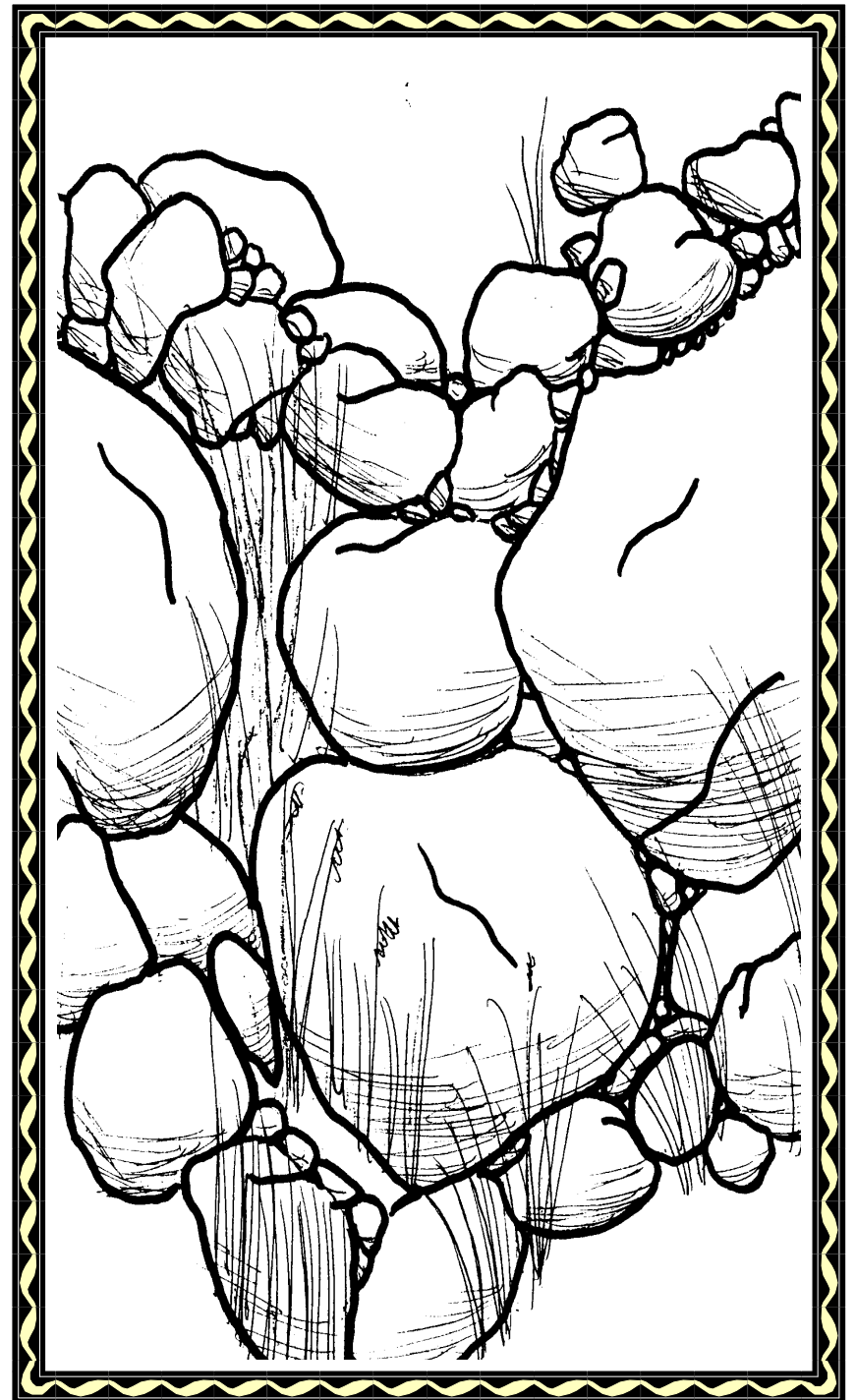
Some other seed fell on
the rocks,
Where it was hard and dry.
No roots could grow, and no
rain came,
The little plants soon died.

A heart that just receives the
Word
Is joyful when it hears,
It first believes but never
grows,
And falls more every year.



But some seed fell upon
good soil,
This soil was moist and soft.
The plants grew thick and tall
and strong,
And gave a plentiful crop.

The good soil is a noble heart,
That keeps the Word inside.
It never gives up but shows
truth
To all by living right.

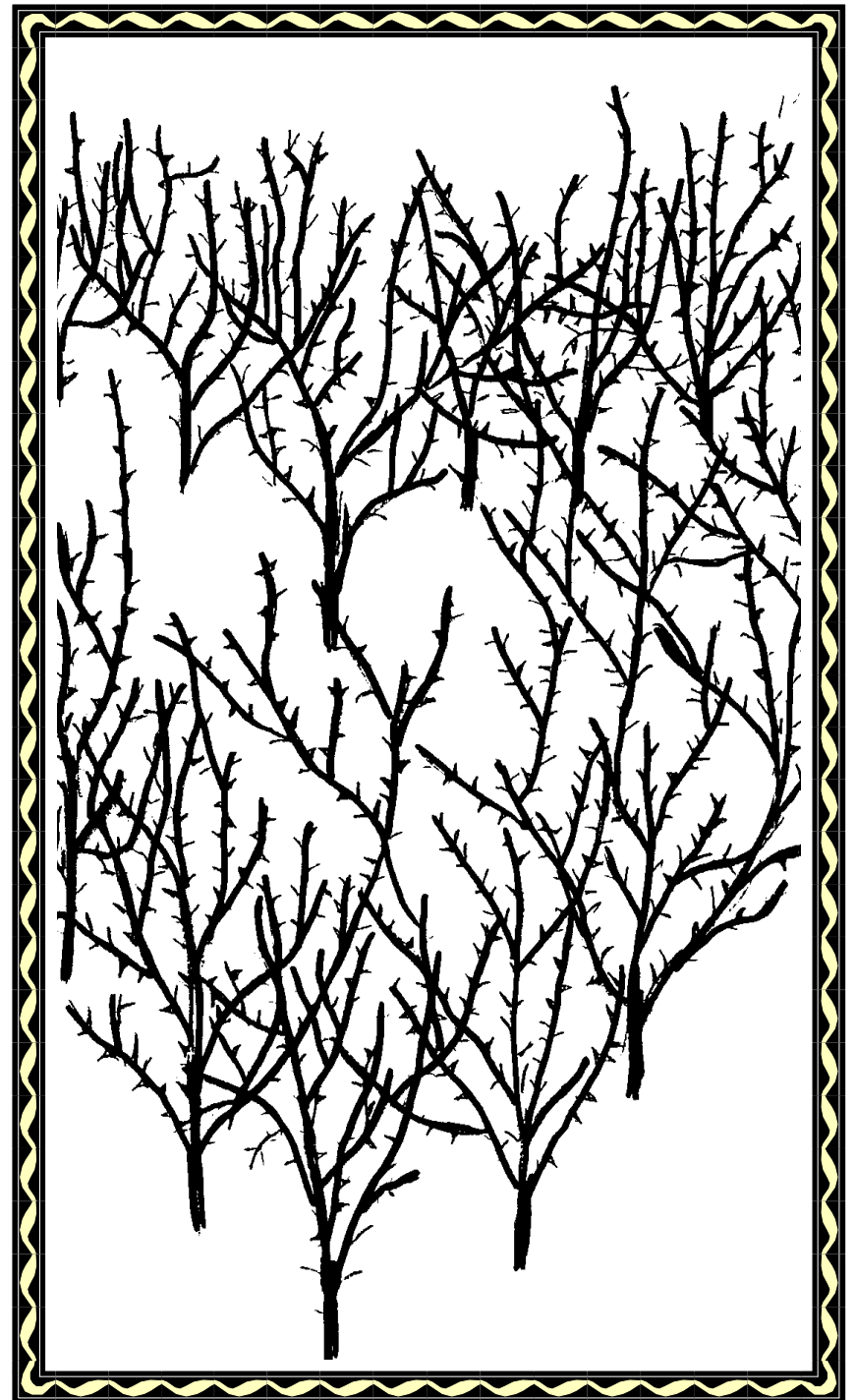


O

ther seed fell in the
thorns,
Plants grew but they were
small.

Thorns choked them and they
soon died,
There was no yield at all.

The seeds that fell among the
thorns
Stand for the hearts that hear,
But later go their way with life
Choked by riches and fears.



Word of God “Seed” Packet

Cut out entire packet.

Fold remaining lines towards back of packet.

Glue side and bottom flaps in place.

Cut out Word of God slips from page 2.

Glue birdseed or sunflower seeds next to verses.

Put verses in the “seed” packet. Add more seeds.

When planted in good soil, the Word of God will produce a crop 100 times greater than what was sown.

Avoid planting on paths where seed can be trampled on or stolen by birds.

Avoid rocky areas where young plants will wither for lack of moisture.

Avoid planting among thorns which will grow and choke the plants.

The Word of God SEED



When heard and retained by a good and noble heart, this Word will produce a generous crop.

Cut out these verses. Glue some seeds on the margin. Put them in the assembled seed packet from page 1.

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things... Revelation 4:11

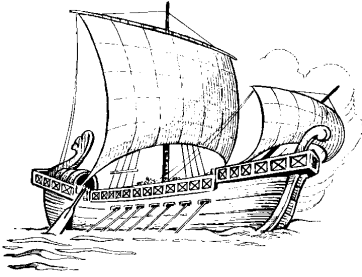
...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Romans 3:23

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:1, 2

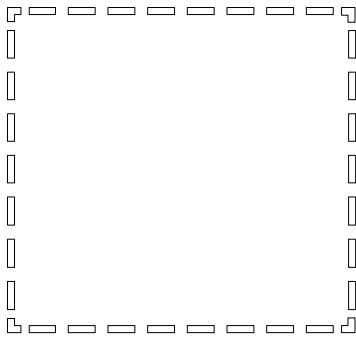
For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

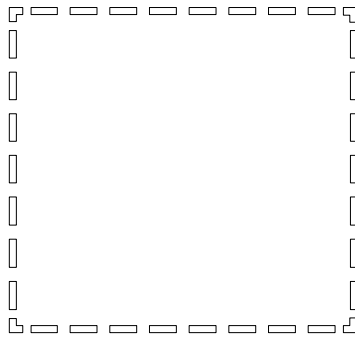
Heart & Soil



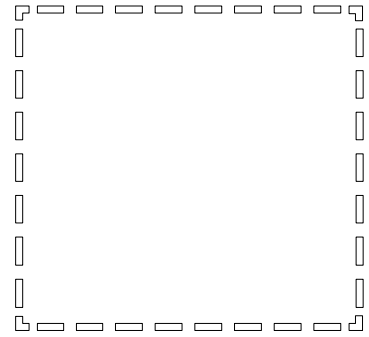
Disciples in the boat with Jesus



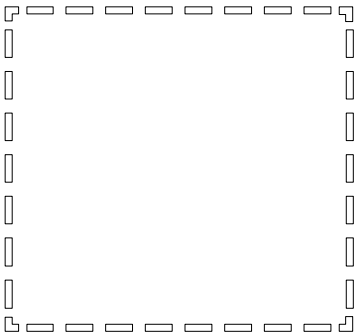
Sick woman who touched Jesus



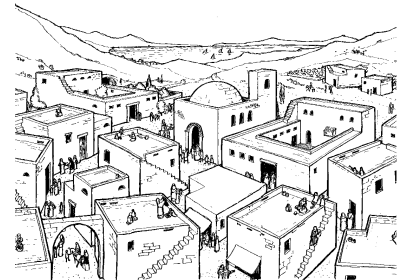
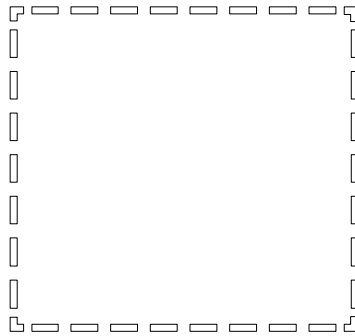
Jairus



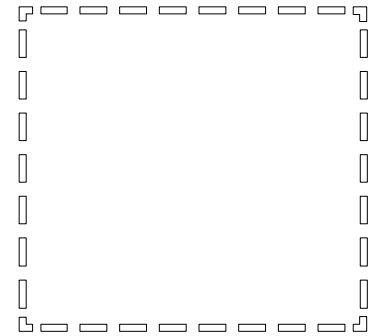
The demoniac



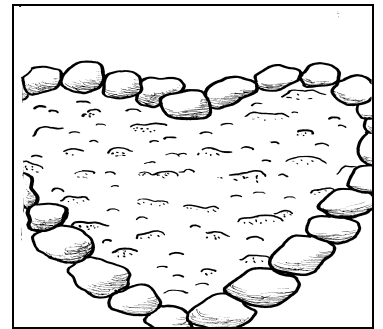
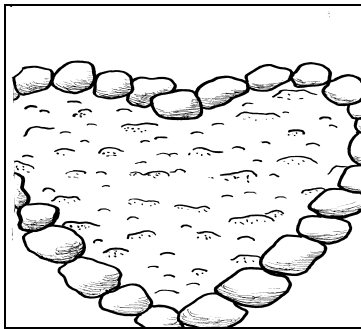
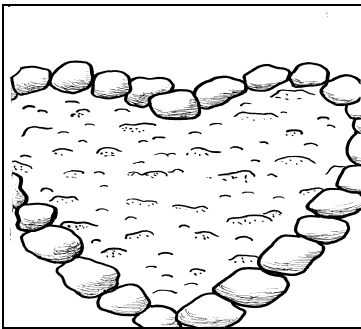
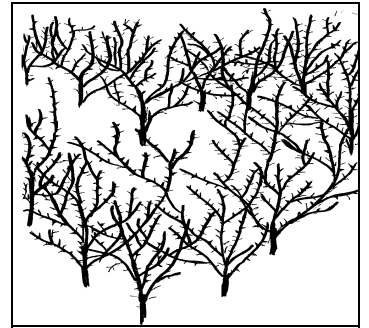
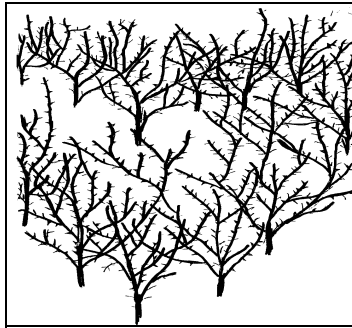
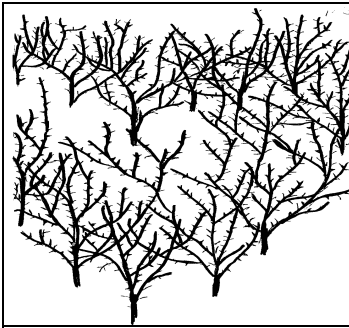
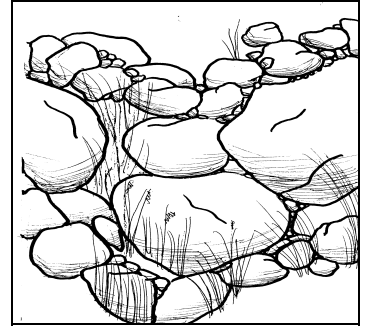
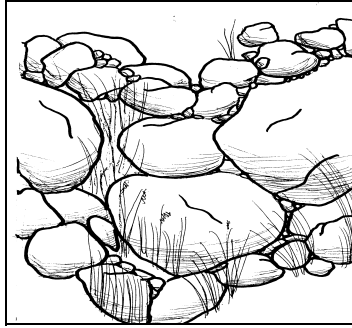
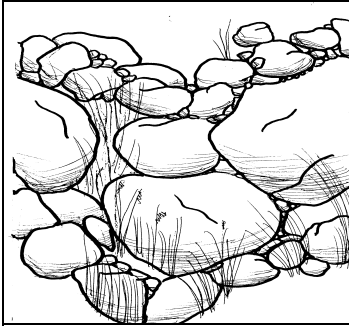
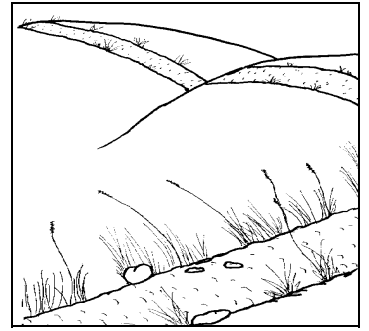
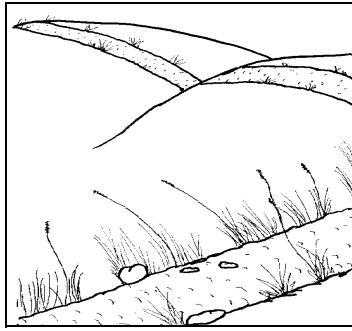
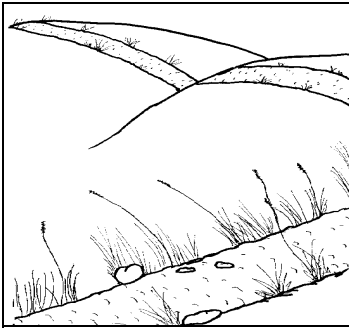
Jairus' daughter

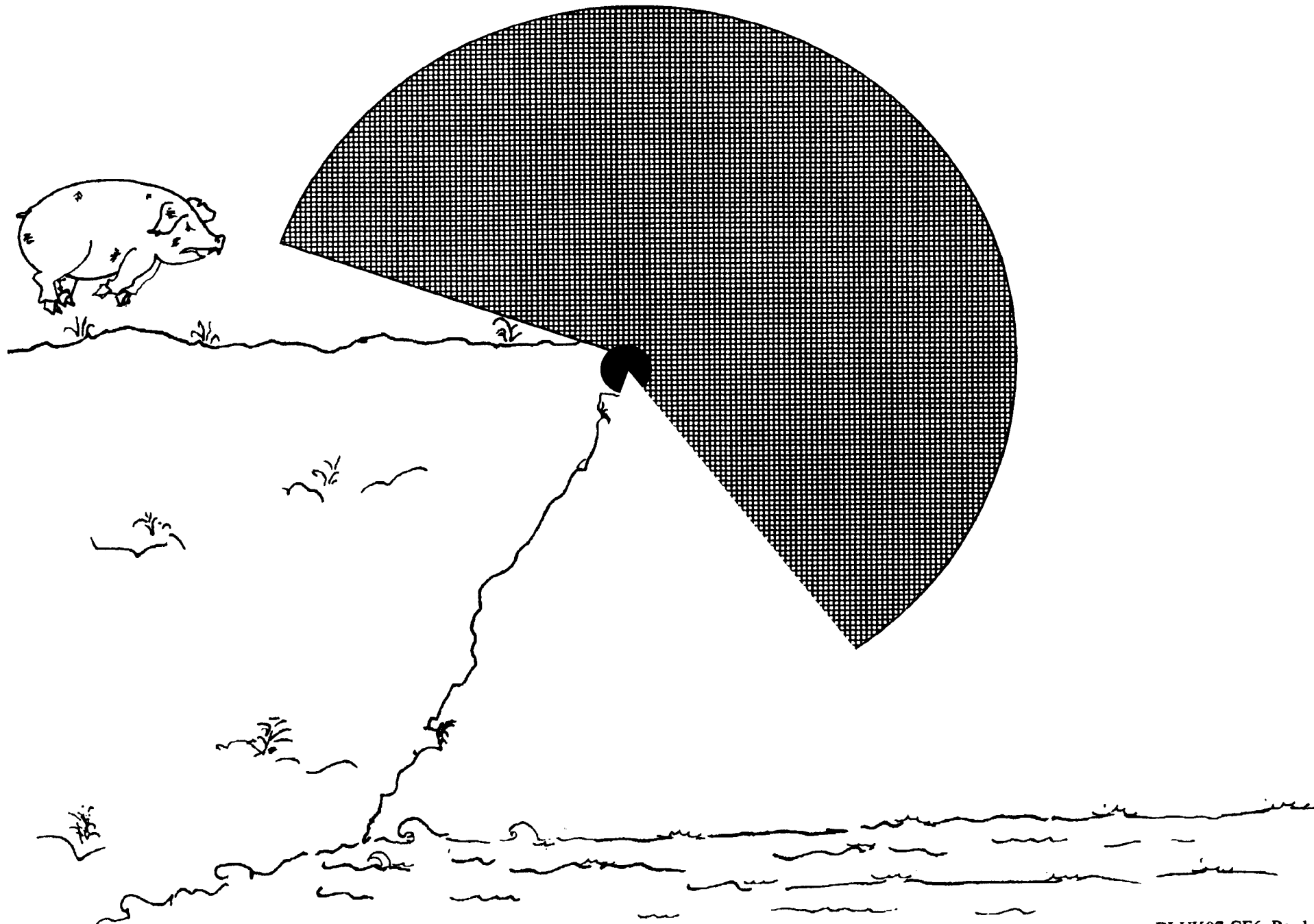


People of the region of the Gerasenes



Cut out the different types of soil on page 2 that were mentioned in Luke 8:4-15. Choose which type of soil best describes each person's heart and paste underneath. Be prepared to explain your choices.







Instructions:

Cut out the circle on this page, leaving pigs intact. Cut out partial shaded circle shape on page 1. Using a brad, connect the circle of pigs to the back of page 1 at the big black dot. As the wheel rotates, the pigs jump into the water. Why were they jumping?

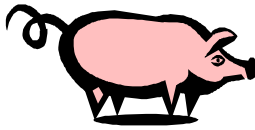
Authority of Jesus

These pictures all have something to do with one of today's stories where Jesus proved His "right to be in charge." He showed His authority over the weather in story #1, over demonic power in story #2 and over death itself in story #3. Put the appropriate number under each picture.

1 - Weather

2 - Demons

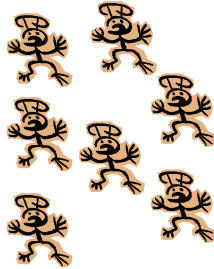
3 - Death

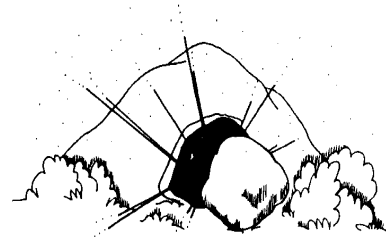




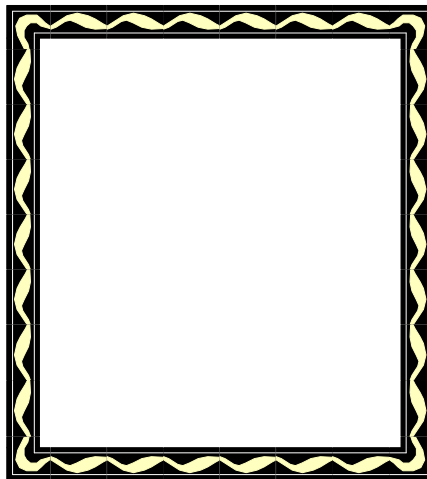








Jesus has
authority over....



...draw yourself here