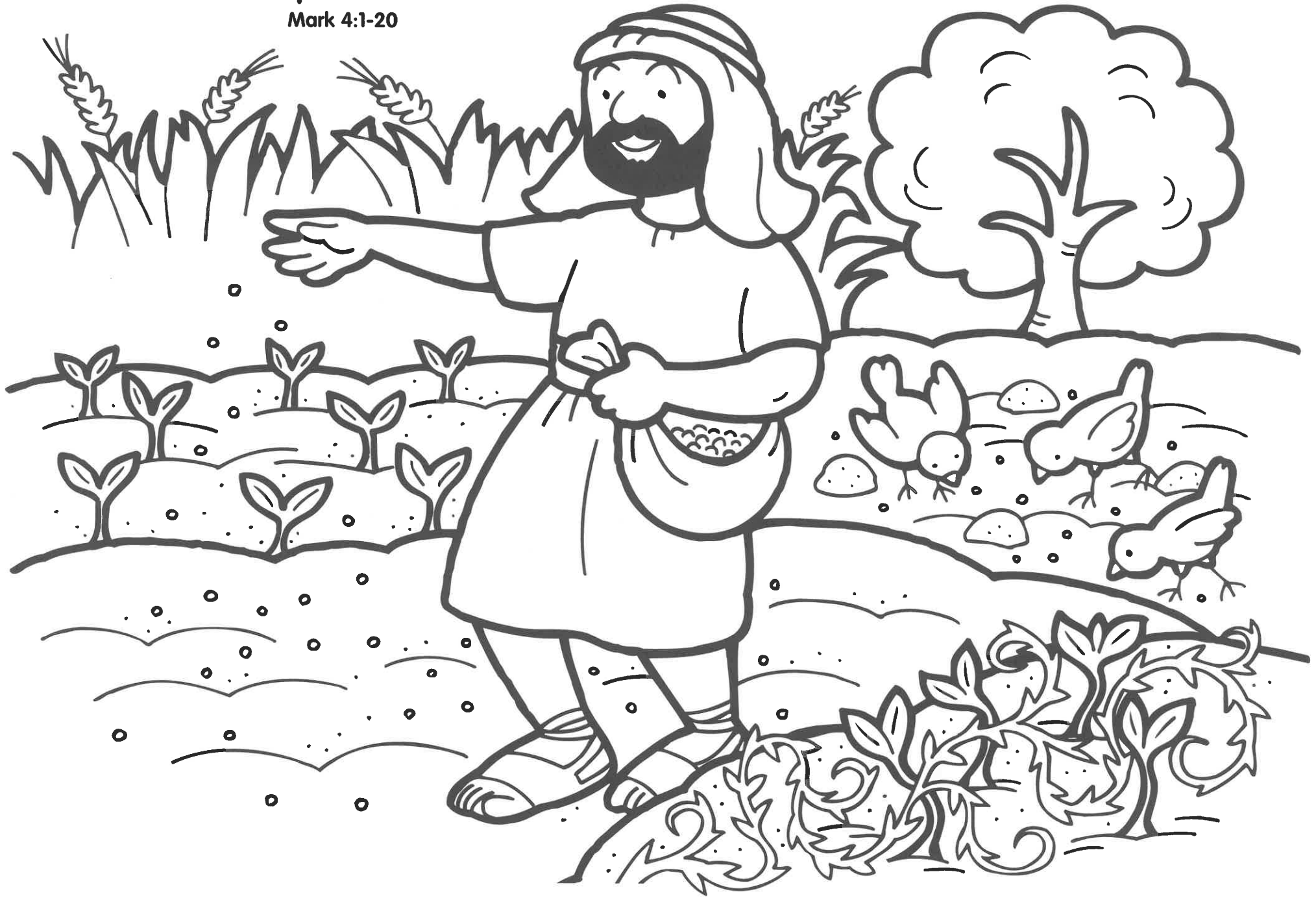


# Jesus tells the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:1-20



# Jesus tells the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:1-20

One day, Jesus told a crowd this story: "A farmer went out to his field to plant some seeds. The farmer tossed seeds onto the ground. Some seeds fell on the hard dirt. The birds ate these seeds.

"Other seeds fell on rocky ground. The plants grew for a little while. But there wasn't enough water, and the plants soon died. Other seeds fell near thorny weeds. The weeds grew faster and stronger than the plants. The plants couldn't grow! These plants died, too."

Finally Jesus said that some of the seed fell on good soil. Those seeds grew and became a huge good crop. Jesus' friends wondered, *What does this story mean?*

Jesus said, "The seeds are like God's Word. People who hear God's Word but never believe it are

like the hard dirt where birds ate the seeds. Some people are glad to hear the Word of God. They believe it, but later it's too hard to do what God wants. They stop believing God's Word. They are like the rocky soil."

One of the friends asked, "What kind of people are like the thorny soil?"

Jesus said, "Some people hear and believe God's Word. They begin to grow, but then their worries keep them from growing. Soon they forget about God's Word.

"The good soil is like people who hear and believe God's Word. They are glad to always love and obey God."

Jesus told this story to teach His helpers to obey God's Word.