



7. Growing good fruit (Sower 2)

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather together for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. As human beings, we have storytelling in our DNA, and so for this final term of the school year, we offer some stories from across the world that help us to think about **'ourselves, others, beauty and/or beyond'**, and wonder together at the power of a story to help connect us and change us. We intentionally use **language from our Diocesan spirituality offer** throughout these resources and hope that this will help to build schools' understanding of the role of collective worship as part of spiritual flourishing. This week, we are taking a small break from the focus on parables to mark the birth-day of the Church through the Christian festival of Pentecost. We return to one of our first parables of the term – the parable of the sower – but look at it in the light of some words from Galatians, which Paul wrote about the **fruits of the Holy Spirit**, talking about the values that followers of Jesus should 'grow' in their lives. We link this to the story from before half term of the birth-day of the Church.



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

The class reflection materials for this term follow the same pattern as previous terms – think, talk and do – but also (where possible) relate to questions about **ourselves, others, beauty and beyond**. This week, the focus is on the **'fruits' of the Holy Spirit** that Paul wrote about in [Galatians 5:22-23](#), which we think many of you may recognise in your school's values.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- **You will need:** some real apples, or print out the apple shapes on p.6-10 onto card to use during the script.
- **You will also need:** some packets of seeds, some of which will bear 'fruit' of some kind e.g. beans, tomatoes etc. – rather than just flowers. There are picture suggestions in the PowerPoint, so replace these with the seeds you have chosen if they are different. Make them as different from each other as they can – and choose some with larger seeds so that they make a noise when the packet is shaken. As children are gathering, give each class adult a packet of seeds. They will need to rattle these each time you say the word **'seeds'** during the story (and only in the story!!) Afterwards, you could give each class the packet of seeds to grow and care for.
- **Reflective areas:** You will need either real apples, or card copies of the same apples used during the collective worship.

Gathering:

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Slide 1: Seed growing stilling exercise

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly, look at the seed growing *[which is on a loop, so seems to re-grow!]*..... [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....as you watch....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today..... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **investigate seeds, share a story, and then think together.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

- **Slide 2:** Use our new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. These greetings may change slightly each week to reflect the **spiritual elements** that we will be exploring in each week's materials.

Leader: As we gather to share our story today....

All: **May we grow in our understanding of ourselves and of others.**

Here are BSL actions for some of the words:

Leader's words:

Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video); Story: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/story> (1st video)

Response words:

Grow: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/grow> (2nd video); Ourselves: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/yourself> (2nd video); Others: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/others> (4th video)



Engaging:

- **Slides 3-13: What seeds are these?** Investigate all the different types of seeds in the PowerPoint: can anyone guess what they might grow into? (Show the pictures (& link with your own seed packets) to see if you're right.)
- **Slide 14:** We're going to continue now with a story. Although it's a story that we heard earlier this term, as with all Jesus' stories, they're so well written that you can hear the story over and over again, and 'hear' something new each time! (Remember that 'old and new treasure' that we thought about a few weeks' ago?) It's a story about a farmer and his **seeds**; as I read, don't forget to shake those **seed** packets and remind yourself which **seeds** grew best and why [*use script, p4, with help from adults & their seed packets*]
So, which **seeds** *did* grow best – and why? [*ask children to respond – it's because they had the **good soil***]
The other seeds didn't have good soil: some fell on **rocky ground** or fell amongst thorns and so they withered and died.
- **Slide 15:** For seeds to grow really well, we know they need a safe place where their roots can go deep (unlike some of the seeds in our story!), and they need water and sunshine. They grow even better when someone looks after them properly! And when they are grown, there will be all sorts of fruit (depending on what you planted!) and even more seeds....
After he'd told his story, Jesus explained to the people listening that the **seeds** that fall on good ground are like the people who listen to what God says and live in a way that pleases him, even when life is difficult. Jesus said that people who do this will grow good fruit in their lives.
- **Slide 16:** You might also recall that Jesus wasn't talking about *real* seeds or *real* fruit, but things like these [*ask some children to take one from your fruit bowl.*] Talk briefly about any that need explaining e.g. 'faithfulness' – being utterly loyal and trustworthy, sticking by people during difficult times; 'self-control' – simply controlling yourself, not giving in to things like anger or being rude or jealous. The Bible calls these words the '**fruit of the Spirit**'and says that God will help these things to grow in the lives of people who follow him, just like **seeds** grow into fruit. We saw this in the story we heard last week about the very first Christians and how they lived. Quite simply, the way that they grow stronger is by doing these things as often as possible, because we all know that the more you practise something, the better you get!

Slide 17: Responding (and words for worship)

Let's stop to ask some wondering questions now:

...I wonder how we can grow these good things in our lives?...

...I wonder how our school's values might help us?...

...I wonder which 'fruits' are hardest to grow?....and what might stop them from growing at all?...

.....

Slide 18: ...Today, we've been thinking about seeds, fruit and growing....

...as you plant and take care of your seeds, think about the things, the values, that are 'growing' in your life....

....maybe it's one of those 'fruits' we talked about.... maybe other values like perseverance or friendship....

.....for seeds to grow, they need to be looked after....

....as I read the apples out again, think about the words and what these things might look like for us at school....[*read apples, pausing between each*]....

....for this fruit to grow, we need to practise being loving, or patient, or kind, or gentle....

....and as with anything, the more we practise, the better we get!.....

....and every new day gives us opportunities to do this!....

I'm going to pray now, and ask that God will help us to grow this good fruit in our lives. You may want to make this prayer your own, by joining in with the 'Amen' at the end, or you may wish to continue to be still and quiet with your own thoughts....



Dear God

Thank you for these good fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Please help us to live our lives in ways that will encourage these good seeds to grow.

Slide 19: Amen

[Alternative prayer: We're going to sing our prayer today: it's a song that asks for one of those 'fruits', God's peace, to be with us in all that we do.

Use the song '[Peace be in our waking](#)', inviting children to join in any words that they would like to.

Sending: Slide 20

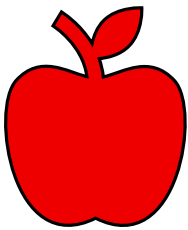
Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May we be willing to share!



To sing / listen to:

[Chain of love](#) (BBC) or '[Peace be in our waking](#)' (BBC) or [The Golden Rule](#) (NBD) or [The Kindness Song](#) (NBD)



Slide 21: Reflective areas

You will need a set of apple cards – or labels with the words stuck onto real apples.

Do: Take an apple out of the bowl and hold it in your hand as you think about the word....

Talk: How might we be more loving, or peaceful, or patient, or gentle here in school?
How do we 'practise' these things?...

Think: Take a few moments to think or pray if you'd like to....



The sower and the seeds

This is a story that Jesus told about **seeds** – a parable – a special story with a hidden meaning. This is what he said:

‘Once, there was a **farmer** who went out to sow his **seeds**. As he was scattering the **seeds**, some fell along the path where it was trampled on by **people’s feet** as they walked by, and pecked up by birds where it fell.

Some **seeds** fell in **rocky ground**, and when they sprouted, **the sun** dried the little green plants up and they withered and died.

Others fell into **thorny bushes**, which choked and killed the **seeds**. But the **seeds** that grew on the **good soil** sprouted, and **grew roots** deep into the ground where there was water and they yielded a good crop, a hundred times more than what was sown.’





‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness (loyalty) and self-control.’



Take an apple out of the bowl and hold it in your hand as you think about the word....



How might we be more loving, or peaceful, or patient, or gentle here in school?

How do we ‘practise’ these things?...



Take a few moments to think or pray if you’d like to....





love

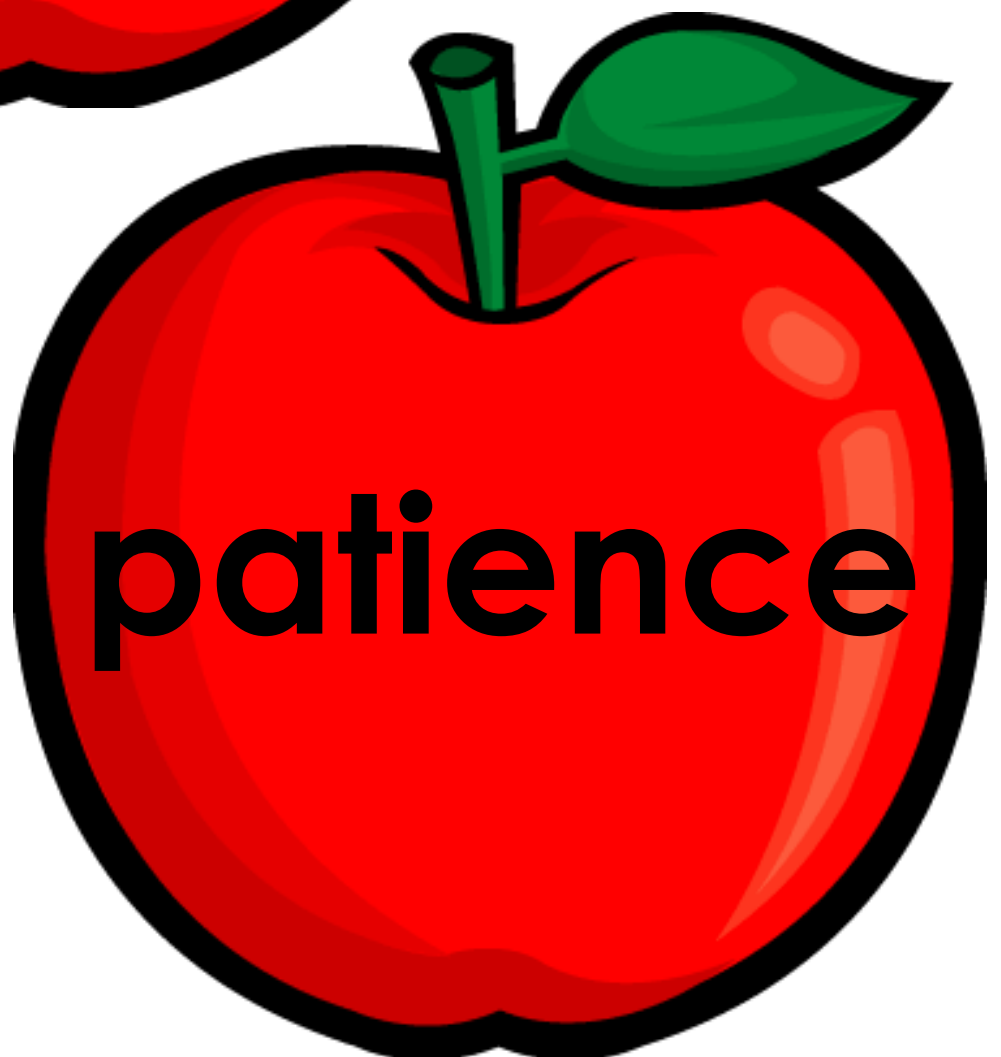


joy





peace



patience







