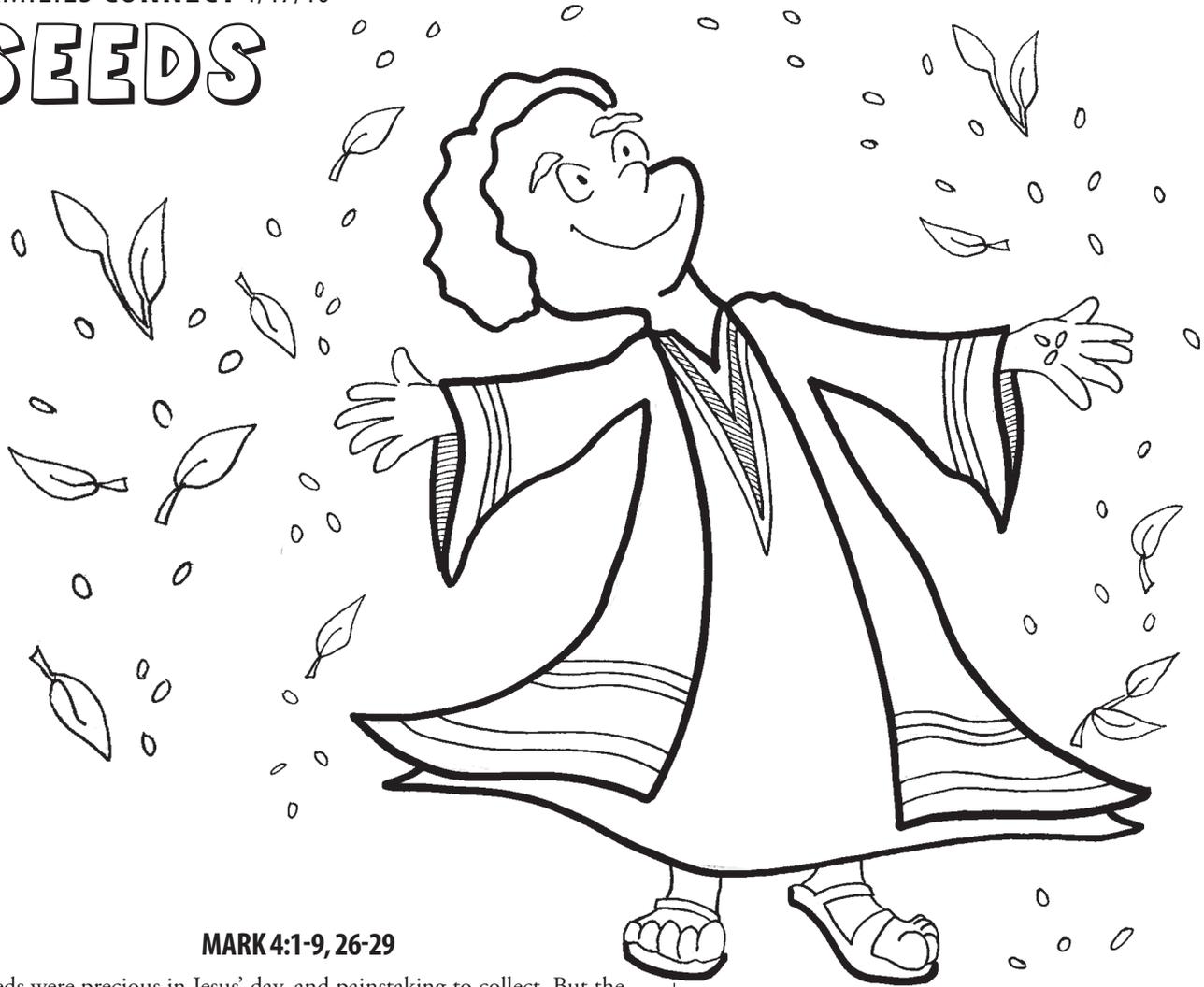


SEEDS



MARK 4:1-9, 26-29

Seeds were precious in Jesus' day, and painstaking to collect. But the sower in this parable casts seeds everywhere. No responsible farmer would do that! The first people hearing this story would have thought the sower was incredibly reckless and wasteful.

In the second story, a farmer goes to sleep without knowing whether the seeds will grow. How a seed becomes a plant is a mystery. He can't control that part. His part is to plant the seeds.

TALK ABOUT THIS ...

Talk about looking at the world through a lens of scarcity vs. abundance. Can you share love more freely when you feel completely loved? Are you stingy with grace and forgiveness if you don't feel like there's enough love to go around? Why?

Why does the man in the first story scatter seeds so freely? Does God scatter love that freely, too? Does God scatter love even in places where it might not grow? Should we do that, too? Can we be this free with the good news? Can we cast seeds everywhere without fearing failure? Are the results up to us?

Can we know when or how God's word will take root and grow in us, and in others? Is it a mystery? Do things that are outside our control like that make us uncomfortable? Why?

What happens when we're able to really throw ourselves into the work of God's kingdom without worrying about the results? Is that freeing? How, or why?



LOVE

Is there enough of God's love and forgiveness to go around, or will it run out?



RELATIONSHIP

How do you treat others when you believe that there's enough love to go around? How do you treat others when you believe it will run out?



WONDER

Why do we spread God's love to others? Are we expecting certain results? Which ones? And why?

FAITH⁵ ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: faith5.org