



**SCRIPTURE**  
MARK 4:1-9

Parable of the Sower or Parable of the Good Earth? The command to *listen* implies being present to the moment and paying attention. The notion of *good earth* suggests agency in the actions of the farmer.



**TRADITION**  
EXPECTATIONS

Traditions shape our expectations of the *environment* in which our children are formed (our families) and the *fruit* that is expected (child's behavior, decisions, actions).



**VITAL WITNESS**  
EXPERIENCE

Reflect on the *ideals* that guide your parenting decisions. Reflect on what brings out the best in you and in your child. Consider forming a plan that helps you and your child be your best selves as frequently as possible.



**SCIENCE**  
SECURE ATTACHMENT

Children thrive in an environment in which their primary caregivers provide a secure base from which to explore and a safe haven to return to for comfort when emotions become overwhelming or a situation too much.

## WHAT MAKES THE SOIL GOOD?

### Tradition



**Note expectations of HOW your child(ren) SHOULD BE raised: (environment)**

Examples might be: In a home with no yelling or raising voices, or in an orderly home, or in a home where the parents make the rules.



**Note expectations of HOW your child(ren) SHOULD turn out: (fruit)**

Examples might be: excel in academics, or excel in athletics, or be respectful, or be obedient, or be popular, or be successful in \_\_\_\_\_.

# The Origin of our “Shoulds”...

Sort your “shoulds” by their source. Some examples have been provided to start the conversation.

family of origin	faith community	culture
<p>Example: “No means no. Once you’ve said it, don’t back down.”</p>	<p>Example: “Children should obey their parents.”</p>	<p>Example: “You should excel in academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities to get into a good college.”</p>

## Reflect and Consider

What did you notice?

Do any of the expectations conflict? With each other? With the holy journey of your own life? With the holy journey of your child’s life?

How do you resolve those conflicts in your parenting?