



WEEK 3: QUIET WORK

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The sermon emphasizes that many are not fully aware of the Spirit's move in their lives. The Spirit operates quietly yet powerfully, facilitating deep growth and transformation, as illustrated by the Parable of the Growing Seed. This growth leads to the Spirit developing in us grace, forgiveness, and mercy, to operate in spiritual and relational maturity. Ultimately, believers are called to trust in the Spirit's work within themselves and others, focusing on faith rather than control over growth.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Mark 4:26-29 (NIV)

Mark 4:30-33 (NIV)

Luke 13:18-19 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Quiet Move of the Spirit

The sermon discusses how the Spirit works in the lives of followers, often in a quiet and transformative manner in the deeper parts of ourselves.

- a. What does it mean for the Spirit to cause growth in our lives quietly and sometimes in the dark and deep places?
- b. Can you think of a time when you experienced personal growth that was slow or not obvious at first? How did that shape your faith?

2

Gradually Growing

The Parable of the Growing Seed is mentioned as a picture of the Spirit's work in followers of Jesus, emphasizing the slow, quiet process of growth.

- a. How does the Parable of the Growing Seed illustrate the work of the Spirit in our lives? While we wish for quick growth, what is the value in the slow, quiet process of growth?
- b. In what ways can you encourage that gradual growth in yourself or those around you?

3

Kingdom Characteristics

The sermon highlights new characteristics that develop through the transformational work of the Spirit.

- a. What are some characteristics like grace, forgiveness, and mercy that we should continuously operate in through the Spirit?
- b. Which of these characteristics have you struggled to operate in the most? Why is it so difficult to live this out for yourself and others?

4

The Spirit Causes Growth

The sermon emphasizes that it's not our business to make things happen but yield in faith to the Spirit's power to grow the planted seeds.

- a. Kingdom growth means trust in the Spirit, what places in your life are you holding onto control? How can this group encourage each other to release control to God?

- b.** Think of a situation where you wanted to control the outcome. What was the result? How can you include God into that process in future situations?

5

Rivers of Water

The pastor encourages followers to act as conduits of the Spirit's life-giving water to others.

- a.** How can we be 'rivers of living water' to others? How can we be more like Jesus to them?
- b.** What forms of serving as a group allow you to be 'rivers of living water' to the needs in the community?

Reminder: 1 Corinthians 3:6 says, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." God will use us to treat the seed for another, but we are not God because only He can cause growth. Therefore, trust in God's work through you.

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

We often expect faster growth, but the Spirit does not always operate like this on purpose.

- What are the areas of growth you want to be rushed? What is the purpose for a quick growth? Do you blame yourself for stunted growth?
- Do you think God is blaming you? If so, why do you think He does?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Ask God to show you His heart to you. Each day this week, write down:

- Places of blame on yourself and God's thoughts about you.
- Encouraging verses paired with God's thoughts (from Scripture or prayer).
- Encouraging thoughts from peers.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see His heart for you and release areas of shame.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

Psalm 62:5: "For God alone my soul waits; from him comes my salvation. He is my rock and my help, my fortress and my refuge."

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

[illegible]