



WEEK 3: SOIL SCIENCE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Through parables, Jesus invites His listeners to lean in and listen carefully. The Kingdom of God does not arrive with force or spectacle but grows quietly, often unseen, in receptive hearts. These stories reveal that transformation is less about intensity and more about attentiveness. Mark challenges us to examine the soil of our own lives—what we receive, what we resist, and whether we trust God to bring growth in His time and His way.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Mark 4:1-34 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Let Them Hear

Jesus keeps repeating, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear," which suggests hearing is more than sound—it can affect the condition of our heart.

- a. Where have you noticed hearing Jesus' word, but you don't accept it and follow it?
- b. How can we attune our ears to hear and follow Jesus' voice?

2 Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God grows quietly, in time, not arriving with force or extravagance.

- a. When have you experienced worry that God might not show up the way you expect Him to? How'd you respond when He didn't show up how we expected?
- b. What are some ways we can keep our heart on Jesus, even when He doesn't move how we expected?

3 Trusting God's Timing

When trusting God's move to grow us is difficult, it's easy to regain control. God is always moving, but not on our timing.

- a. Why is trusting God with His timing harder than trying to manage it?
- b. What would it look like to believe God is already working even when you can't see it?

4 Going Deeper

Jesus' miracles reveal His power, yet we often find it easier to trust what we can see Him do rather than to trust what we hear Him say.

- a. When was a time you relied on God's miracles more than His promises and whispers of love?
- b. How can we position ourselves to hear and treasure His voice in all circumstances?

Different Stories

We are all in different places of life and faith, yet in each area, circumstances can change the direction of our heart.

- a. *Currently*, where you are in life, which seed in the "parable of the sower" do you relate to? Why would you choose that one?
- b. What would it look like to be the seed that yields crops, even if our life is currently difficult?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: God cares about our growth, but we could grow impatient and try to speed up the process. Growth is gradual and God is with each step of the way.

- Where in your life are you asking God for growth and transformation?
- What would it look like this week to stop managing the outcome and instead create space for God to work?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Growing with God—Each day this week:

- Write down where you want to grow (hearing His voice, reading Scripture, consistency...).
- Create a habit to support an area of growth (ex: read a chapter a day).

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to know His heart and hear His voice, so you can live it out.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:6 (ESV), *"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."*

Let the group rest in this truth as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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