

DISCUSSION NOTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

GETTING STARTED

1. Why do you think Jesus taught in parables? How might parables invite deeper meditation and reflection on truth?

DIGGING IN

2. Read Mark 4:3-9. What is the agricultural analogy that Jesus' offers? What do the seeds represent?

What does the soil represent?

3. Briefly describe each of the four soils where the seeds fell in Jesus parable:

Soil #1 -

Soil #2 -

Soil #3 -

Soil #4 -

What is common to each of the first three soils?

What is different about the fourth soil?

4. What is the first word (vs 3) and the last words (vs 9) in Jesus' parable? How are these words related?

5. Read Jesus' explanation of this parable in Mark 4:10-20, and underline or note every reference to hearing. What point is Jesus making?

6. What does this passage teach us about the kingdom of God? What does it tell us about the spiritual life?

LIVING IT OUT

7. What warnings does this passage give to us? What things can keep us from spiritual life and growth?

8. What positive encouragement does this passage offer? How can we grow?

9. How can you be more receptive to God's Word and more deeply root it in your heart? How badly do you want to grow? How deeply do you desire God's Word?

10. What might it look like for you to be truly ready to receive the Word each week through the singing, preaching, and communion in our worship gatherings? How could you prepare your heart for worship with anticipation of receiving God's Word and expectation of bearing great fruit?

11. What is God personally teaching you or calling you to do through this passage?