

Training Ground
Good Soil
Sunday, March 2, 2025

Mark 4: 1-12 NIV

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ²He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹²so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

1. **Tend Your Soil** (Heart).
2. **Earnestly Seek to Learn.**
3. **Sow God's Seed.**

Conclusion: The differing results were not based on the seed, but the kind of soil the seed fell on. Ensure His Word is falling on good soil. Pray for God to seal and grow that seed planted in your heart and others. Be

sowers of the seed, and trust God with the results.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Good Soil

Week of March 2, 2025- March 8, 2025

Ice Breaker: How do you prepare soil for planting crops, veggies, or flowers? What has happened if you didn't prepare the soil?

Read Mark 4: 1-12.

1. What is Jesus doing? Where was He? Why? (v.1)
2. How did Jesus choose to teach His truths? (v.2)
3. What is a parable?
4. What does He call them to do? (v.3) What does He call us to do?
5. What example did He use for this teaching? (v.3) How would they relate to this example? How can we yet relate to this example?
6. What was the farmer doing? (v.4) Who is the farmer?
7. What does the seed represent? What does the soil represent?
8. What happened with the seed that fell on the path-the worn area? (v.4)
9. What does this mean spiritually? Read Mark 4:15.
10. Read John 10:10. How do these correlate?
11. What happened to the seed that fell on rocky places, or topsoil? (v.5)
12. Read Mark 4:16-17. What is the result spiritually?
13. What happens to the seed that falls among thorns? (v.7)
14. Read Mark 4:18-19. What takes over? What happens to the Word?
15. What happens to the seed that falls on good soil? (v.8)
16. Read Mark 4:20. In good soil what happens to the seed?
17. Which soil condition can you relate to? Can you notice when your condition changes? Have you experienced similar outcomes?
18. What did Jesus say to the crowd after sharing this parable? (v.9)
19. What does this mean? Who might be unhearing?
20. What did the disciples do upon hearing? (v.10) What does this teach us to do so we gain greater understanding and knowledge of God?
21. How did Jesus respond to their questions? (v.11)
22. Why would Jesus use parables to teach? What is He looking for in us?
23. Who is the gateway or doorway to God? John 14:6. How do we gain access to the secrets of God's Kingdom? Read Jeremiah 33:3
24. What do we see for those who don't enter the doorway? (vs. 11-12)
25. Read Proverbs 4:23. What are we to do and how does it relate to this teaching? How does this help us model Christ and sow God's seed?

Point to ponder: Tend to your soil first, and then diligently scatter His seed. Let us follow the teaching and example of Christ.