

Parables

Discussion Guide

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The Parable of the Sower

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Main Idea

A parable is a story that parallels a deeper spiritual truth. Jesus, in His wisdom and with a profound understanding of how the human heart and mind comprehend the truth, chose to speak in parables. They are meant to demystify the supernatural, by drawing a parallel with the natural. Today we will look at the Parable of the Sower. In this parable, Jesus unpacks how people receive and respond to the message of the Kingdom of God.

Anchor Verse:

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. (James 1:22, NLT)

Read Matthew 13:1-23

The Seed On The Path = A Hardened Heart

The seed represents the Word of God. The effectiveness of the seed depends on the condition of the soil, not the seed itself.

What kind of soil are you? How can you really tell?

The Seed On Rocky Ground = A Shallow Heart

The rocky soil symbolizes our initial reception of the word with joy, yet its shallowness leads to a faith that is superficial and lacking in depth.

Who do you turn to when you have a crisis of faith? In what ways are you connecting to a community of believers that encourage your faith and challenge you to grow?

The Seed Among Thorns = The Distracted Heart

The thorns represent the worries of this life - the distractions of this life - that choke out the Word of God. This is why we must guard against the schemes of the enemy.

Read: Proverbs 4:23

What is distracting you from what God is speaking to you? How are you guarding your heart?

SUMMARY

The seed is the Word of God, and the soil is our hearts. The hard path, then rocky ground, the thorny soil, and the good soil, each one of them symbolized different levels of openness and willingness and most importantly our commitment to HIS word and ultimately HIS way for our lives. *"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown"* (Mt. 13:23).

CALL TO ACTION

1. Take a moment to examine your heart. Are there areas where your heart is resistant to God's Word? Pray for openness and understanding.
2. Take some time this week to do some weeding and cultivating of the soil of your heart to make it ready to receive the Word of God.
3. Consider joining an [HC Group](#) and diving into discipleship with others this summer.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Sporcle

Sporcle is a fun game where participants mention different items in different categories.

To organize this activity:

1. Sit in a circle.
2. Choose an order in which to play.
3. The first player will name a category, such as fruit.

4. Set a timer for five to seven seconds.
5. The next player must mention five items within the given category before the timer runs out. The player will then call out another random category.
6. The game will continue in this manner until all the players get a turn.
7. Players who fail to mention the given number of items before the timer runs out will get removed from the game.
8. The last player standing wins.

Other examples: types of cars, names of disciples, names of women in the Bible, baseball teams, books of the Old Testament, authors of the books of the Bible