



SMALLGROUPS

Weekly Group Questions & Practices

*The following questions and practices are provided as a menu for you to select from; unless your group loves truly lengthy discussions, please don't try to do everything here! **Choose the questions and activities that best suit your group and timeframe.***

Change: Stories that change the world and your heart.

Date: **May 2, 2021**
Sermon: **Getting Unstuck**
Passage: **Luke 8:4-15**

Discuss:

1. Do you have any experience with gardening/farming? If so, what is most rewarding for you and what is most frustrating about gardening?
2. Describe a long term goal you set for yourself (exercising, reading a long book series, earning a degree). How did you fare in the working and waiting of reaching that goal?
3. Jesus takes time to unpack the failure of growth in three of the soils: "Satan snatches," "have no root," and "choked out by life's worries, riches and pleasures... they don't mature." Can you relate to these situations? Where have you seen these in your own life?
4. The purpose of gardening is to grow things! That's the point of Jesus' message: (1) Hear the word, (2) retain it and (3) by persevering produce a crop. What do those three steps look like in your life right now?
5. Where does our LORD have you "throwing seed" these days? Have you grown discouraged or unconvinced in that assignment? Share with the group your discouragement OR your plan to stay on task with the job of sowing seeds.

Deeper Dive:

These questions are intended to help you extend the conversation to other, related parts of Scripture.

The original listeners of Jesus' parables were Jews and they knew their Bible! They knew that most of the stories of gardens in the Bible end in failure. Check out Isaiah 5:1-8 and Isaiah 40:23-24. You may know other garden stories. How is Jesus' story different/hopeful? What makes us so sure that we won't be just another failed garden?

Soul Training: Solitude

In our full lives with many distractions available to us, it can be hard to hear the God who speaks in whispers. This week, practice solitude as a way of positioning yourself to God's work in your life. Take 1-3 hours away from other people (and screens!) to listen to God. (One idea for your time away is to reflect on the story of Luke 8:4-15.)