



The Gospel Of

MARK

The Gospel of Mark – The Good Soil Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 05.19.2024

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Mark. 4:1-9, ESV]

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." ⁹ And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

[Mark 4:10, ESV]

¹⁰ And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.

[Mark 4:11–13, TPT]

¹¹ He said to them, "The privilege of intimately knowing the mystery of God's kingdom realm has been granted to you, but not to the others, where everything is revealed in parables. ¹²"For even when they see what I do, they will not understand, and when they hear what I say, they will learn nothing, otherwise they would repent and be forgiven."

¹³ Then he said to them, "If you don't understand this parable, how will you understand any parable?"

[Mark 4:14-20, ESV]

¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

The Value we give the seed determines the Preparation we give the soil.

How to Prepare the Soil of our Hearts:

1) Pull the Weeds (through Consecration)

[Joshua 3:5, ESV]

⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

Examples of Weeds:

- Sexual sin (in all of its forms).

[1 Thessalonians 4:3, ESV]

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.

- Profane/Perverse Speech.

[Ephesians 4:29, NIV]

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.

- Defiling Entertainment

[Matthew 6:22–23, ESV]

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

- Negative Relationships/Friendships

[Proverbs 1:15, ESV]

¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them (sinners); hold back your foot from their paths.

- Sin in all its forms

[Isaiah 59:2, ESV]

² your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

2) Plow the Ground (with Praise)

[Hosea 10:11, ESV]

¹¹ Judah must plow.

[Hosea 10:12b, ESV]

^{12b} break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

[Matthew 6:9, ESV]

⁹ Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

3) Receive the Word (with anticipation)

"accept": paradechomai = to accept, receive, met. to receive, admit, yield assent to, to receive or embrace with favor, approve, love.

[2 Timothy 1:20, NLT]

²⁰ All scripture is given by inspiration of God.

[Hebrews 4:12, NLT]

¹² For the word of God is living and active.

[John 1:1, NLT]

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Key Points:

- 1) Pull the Weeds (through Consecration)
- 2) Plow the Ground (with Praise)
- 3) Receive the Word (with anticipation)

Applications for the Week:

This week, ask God to show you the areas of your life that He desires to soften and commit to receiving the Word of God daily. Read through Psalm 119 and underline or highlight God's promises for your life.

Discussion Questions

1. Who do you turn to for perspective and wisdom, and why?
2. Why do you think Jesus taught using parables? Why did He often debrief with disciples but conceal the truth to some?
3. How do we ensure that we are "good soil"?
4. What is the condition of your soil? What can we do to prepare the soil of our hearts
(See Key Points)
5. Based on the value of the seed, how are you preparing the soil of your heart? What does consecration practically look like? What "weeds" do you need to pull?
6. What are some things we need to guard our hearts from so that weeds can't grow?
7. What biblical promises are you looking forward to God fulfilling?
8. How much time in a typical week do you spend plowing with praise? What would it look like to make it a daily practice? Set time aside this week to spend at least 5 minutes each day praising God in worship and prayer.