DISCUSSION GUIDE Get Into The Word

Leader Edition



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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Introduction

In Luke 8, we will delve into the Parable of the Sower to explore how Jesus uses parables to convey deeper truths. We will focus on self-reflection and action, considering the condition of the "soil" in our hearts. Is your heart calloused, shallow, distracted, or receptive to God's Word? Let's discuss how to cultivate a heart that not only hears but nurtures the Word, leading to abundant spiritual fruit in our lives. How can we apply these insights to deepen our faith and walk with God daily?

<u>Disciple Measure</u>

Spirit-led Follower: What Scripture is currently shaping you?

Discussion Questions Notes: **Understanding Parables HIGHLIGHT** Have someone read aloud... Luke 8:4-8 **EXPLAIN** Discuss the following questions... **Opening Question:** What's your favorite story or parable from the Bible? Why does it resonate with you? 1. Why do you think Jesus chose to teach using parables? How does this method of teaching impact you personally? Have someone read aloud Matthew 12:22-24. 2. Why do you think the crowd responds this way to Jesus' messianic miracle? Have someone read aloud Luke 8:9-15. 3. The sermon emphasizes that this parable is a mirror for self-reflection, not a tool for judging others. Why is this distinction important? 4. Discuss the four types of soil mentioned in the parable. Which one do you most relate to in your current season of life? Why?

Application Questions Notes:

APPLY

Discuss the following questions...

- 1. How can we cultivate good soil in our hearts to better receive and apply God's Word?
- 2. What are some thorns in your life that might be choking out the growth of God's Word?
- 3. If you're participating in the Get Into the Word reading plan or have done one in the past, share your experience with the group.
- 4. Which fruit of the Spirit would you like to see yourself grow in? What is a Scripture you could meditate on to help with that?

RESPOND

Force for Good: Do you know the Gospel and how to articulate it to someone else? If so, when was the last time you shared it with someone? If not, what steps are you taking to learn how to share the Gospel with others?

To learn more about how you can spread the Gospel in your community, check out the LH Missions Local Partner Workshop.



Prayer:

Pray that the Lord helps us cultivate receptive hearts for Your Word. Show us areas where we need to grow and change. Give us wisdom to apply these truths to our lives and bear fruit for Your kingdom.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Luke 8:4-15

What do you think this Scripture shows us about how God plants good things in our hearts?

Guide younger children to think about how God wants to help us grow with good thoughts and actions, like seeds growing into plants. For older children, discuss how God offers His teachings to help us live better lives.

In this Scripture, there are different kinds of ground. Which one do you think is most like your heart, and why?

Help younger children relate the types of ground to how they feel or act, like being sometimes distracted or happy to learn. With older children, discuss the broader idea of how their attitudes and choices affect their ability to understand and act on what they learn.

How can we make our hearts more like the good soil in this Scripture?

Encourage younger children to think about simple actions, like listening to others and being kind. For older children, include more complex ideas, such as setting aside time for reflection or prayer and avoiding distractions that prevent them from focusing on important teachings.

NT 260

For next week.

WEEK: 3

- Luke 11
- Luke 12
- Luke 13
- Luke 14
- Luke 15

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:5-6

Resources

Resources to Listen To

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast S4 E19



Pastor Robby dives deeper into the messianic miracle of Matthew 12. Scan the QR code or click here.

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Overview Luke 10-24



A video commentary over Luke 10-24. Scan the QR code or click here.

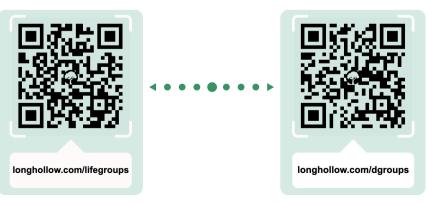
(8 minutes)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



Commentary

Notes:										
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What's Going On?

In the Bible, stories called parables are like puzzles that make us think and ask questions. Jesus often used parables to teach important lessons. The story in Luke 8:4-15 is one such parable, often called "The Parable of the Sower." Jesus tells the story of a farmer scattering seeds, where each seed falls on a different type of ground: the path, rocky ground, thorns, and good soil. Each type of ground responds differently to the seeds, symbolizing how people receive and act on God's teachings.

This parable is significant because it helps us think about how we listen and respond to what we learn about God. Jesus shared these parables to both reveal and protect His messages. They reveal truths to those willing to look deeper, while protecting the secrets from those who weren't truly listening. The disciples were curious about the deeper meaning of this parable, which Jesus explained as representing how different people receive God's Word.

When we consider the literary style, parables use everyday images and situations familiar to Jesus' audience. In this case, farming was a common activity, so everyone could understand the concept of sowing seeds and the challenges faced by different types of soil. Jesus used the parable to show that even though many people hear God's Word, not everyone will respond in the same way.

Biblical Timeline



Creation

A Bit of Background

During Jesus' time, storytelling was a popular way of teaching, especially in the Eastern cultures where Jesus preached. People thought in pictures and stories rather than in lists of rules or facts. Parables. therefore, were not only about teaching right from wrong but making people think deeply and examine their lives. Rabbis, like Jesus, often taught using these stories.

At that time, Jesus was attracting large crowds. Everywhere He went, people gathered to hear His teaching and see His miracles. This was a period of growing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders. They were not pleased with His teachings and the influence He was gaining among the people. After facing rejection, even being accused by the Pharisees of performing miracles with the power of evil, Jesus shifted His approach to teaching. He used parables as a way to teach those who genuinely wanted to learn while keeping His messages hidden from those who were only there to challenge or attack Him. Jesus' story would have resonated deeply, going beyond agriculture and challenging them to reflect on their own spiritual lives.

Understanding the parable of the sower within its historical and literary context allows us to grasp the teachings of Jesus more fully. It challenges us to think about our own hearts and how open we are to receiving and acting on God's teachings in our daily lives.



Today's highlighted passage and other related passages

Notes:

Sermon Notes

Luke 8:4-15 CSB

As a large crowd was gathering, and people were coming to Jesus from every town, he said in a parable, "A sower went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some seed fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the sky devoured it. Other seed fell on the rock; when it grew up, it withered away, since it lacked moisture. Other seed fell among thorns; the thorns grew up with it and choked it. Still other seed fell on good ground: when it grew up, it produced fruit: a hundred times what was sown." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen." Then his disciples asked him, "What does this parable mean?" So he said, "The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given for you to know, but to the rest it is in parables, so that Looking they may not see, and hearing they may not understand., "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the seed on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy. Having no root, these believe for a while and fall away in a time of testing. As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit. But the seed in the good ground #- #these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, produce fruit.

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

When a disciple lives out their Godgiven calling, they naturally become a force for good . . . where they live, work, and play. This type of person is . . . looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.

