

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THY KINGDOM COME

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss the importance of our response to God's word. Discuss what it looks like to have the four different heart postures Jesus' shared in his parable. Help your group members recognize their own heart posture and how they need to respond to God's Word.

ICE BREAKER



Share a time when you attended an event, or watched a movie, and had a completely different experience from someone else in the audience.

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Mark 4:10-20 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."

(Turn to the ESV Bible to continue reading verses 10-20)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Jesus' reign is accomplished through response to his word.

Key Question: What is your heart towards Jesus' word?

1. Hard heart. (vv. 1-4, 15)
2. Shallow heart. (vv. 5-6, 16-17)
3. Distracted heart. (vv. 7, 18-19)
4. Fertile heart. (vv. 8-9, 20)

THY KINGDOM COME WEEK 3



DISCUSSION



- This parable is about responding to the Word of God. Why is it important for us to not just hear/read God's Word, but to respond? Read James 1:21-24.
- The four soils spoken of in the text refer to the varying conditions of a human heart. As a group revisit each heart condition and discuss what they each look like: hard heart (v.15), shallow heart (vv.16-17), distracted heart (vv.18-19), fertile heart (v.20).
- Without the Spirit, we are all prone to the three non-fertile heart conditions. Which of those three conditions are you prone to falling back into when your heart is not the fertile soil? Have you personally experienced any of the other heart conditions throughout your faith journey?
- As followers of Jesus, we want to have hearts that are fertile. What are some things that we can do to seek soft hearts towards God's Word?
- When God's word is planted in a fertile heart it bears much fruit (v. 20). Read Galatians 5:22-23. How have you seen the fruit of the Spirit in your own life or the lives of others? How is that fruit connected to your response to God's Word?

LIFE APPLICATION



Jesus' reign is accomplished through response to his word. Based on your discussion, as a group come up with practical ways you can respond to his Word this week.

Put your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


