

This weekend, we continued our series, *Disciple: The Short Stories of Jesus*, and looked at “The Parable of the Sower,” and we learned how important it is to respond to the message of the Kingdom in our lives. We will continue to explore this important lesson in this week’s Life Group study.

## PAUSE

Be still and ask Jesus to give you ears to hear what He wants to teach you as you work through this study. Invite Him to help you understand more about what it means to be His disciple.

## READ

This week, we are reading **pages 41-48** of David Wenham’s *The Parables of Jesus*. We have a PDF of these pages available on our website at [rocky-peak.org/disciple-the-short-stories-of-jesus](http://rocky-peak.org/disciple-the-short-stories-of-jesus). If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the Worship Center patio during weekend services. You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code.



## STUDY

1. This weekend, we learned that *The Seed ... Is The Word Of The Kingdom*. Reread “The Parable of the Sower” in **Mark 4:1-20**. Write down anything that stands out as meaningful to you.
  - a. If someone asked you to describe the Kingdom of God and its message, how would you explain it?
2. In *The Parables of Jesus*, Wenham writes about “The Parable of the Sower,” saying that the Kingdom is like joining a revolution that grows slowly and is not fully or immediately successful. On page 44, he writes,

*Jesus depended not on military force or even on supernatural power for the bringing of the kingdom, but on the ‘word’, in other words on telling people about the revolution and calling them to join it. (‘to repent and believe’...)*

What is your reaction to Jesus’ method of growing a large movement from a small beginning?
3. On page 47, Wenham writes that “The Parable of the Sower” is “a comment on the variable success of his preaching.” Jesus’ preaching was met with all kinds of responses—from those who rejected it right away, to those who received it at first but later rejected it, to those who welcomed and embraced it. How does your experience when you have sown the seed (shared the Gospel) compare with the responses in this parable?
4. This weekend we learned that *The Word ... Has Supernatural Power*. Read **James 1:21**. How have you experienced the supernatural power of the Word bringing about transformation in your life?
5. “The Parable of the Sower” is a great reminder that Jesus is also sowing the seed of the Kingdom in our lives. The Word has the power to transform us, but its impact depends on our response. Read what the Apostle Peter says about this in **2 Peter 1:3-11**.
  - a. How does this passage challenge and encourage you to continue growing, listening, and following?
  - b. What does Peter say we need to do if we want to “receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom” (vs.11)?

6. Jesus teaches us through this parable that there is only one kind of *good* soil—the soil that bears fruit. Read the description of the Kingdom of God in **Romans 14:17**. What are its characteristics?
  - a. How do they compare with the fruit of your life?
7. Read what Jesus says about fruitfulness in **John 15:1-4**. How might Jesus be pruning you in this season?

## RESPOND

Michael ended the message by asking us two key questions. Take a moment to evaluate your walk with the Lord. How would you answer each of these questions?

1. *Which Soil ... Are You?*
2. *Are You Aware ... Of The Dangers?*