
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 11

Small Group Questions: Kidscoast Takeover

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Read

Matthew 13:3–9; Isaiah 55:10–11; Mark 4: 26–29 and Galatians 6:9

Reflect

During Jesus' earthly ministry, he often uses parables—stories that illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson that otherwise may be too complex or foreign to understand. In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the parable of the sower (farmer). As the farmer sows seed, it falls in many places: along the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil. What do each of these different places represent spiritually?

Pastor Josh Walters highlights three ingredients for growth:

1. The sower's job is essential, but the power is in the seed.
 - a. Who is the farmer, and what is the seed?
 - b. Do you think it's important for us to help the farmer sow the seed? Explain.
 - c. In what ways have you seen people help sow seed most successfully?
2. Cast seed on any ground without judging the readiness or response of the soil.
 - a. Is there someone you think would never become a believer in Christ?
 - i. Have you given up on them? How willing are you to share your beliefs, and continue to pray, support, and encourage them, anyway?
 - b. Who has surprised you by becoming a Christian?
 - c. This week, if feasible, ask a new Christian what brought them to church.
 - i. Find out some of their reasons.
 - d. Have you ever questioned whether anything you've said to someone is taking root? Explain.
 - i. When have you realized that God had something more going on under the surface?
 - e. In yourself, what attitude or behavior do you need to allow God to change and cultivate into better soil?
3. Trust in the seed and the season.
 - a. In this season, what do you think your primary job is? Help sow? Water? Harvest? Discuss.
 - b. Who did you look up to when you were young? Why?
 - i. What is something they said or did that you didn't like, but later realized was good for you?
 - c. Are you allowing your background or past experiences to limit what you can sow?
 - d. **So what?** Evaluate the soil of your heart. Which type of soil does it most resemble right now?
 - e. **Sow what?** What will you sow? How will you give of your time, talents, and treasures?
 - i. What are you doing to help plant seeds for God? Whose lives are you speaking into?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?