

Potential Growth Discussion Guide

Lesson 1 - Hard

(May 19, 2024)

This study guide is based on the message that is available on YouTube.

Opening Discussion: What do you enjoy planting each spring in your gardens?

Dive Deeper:

1. Read the Parable of the Four Soils in Matthew 13:1-23. What is a parable? What would be the advantage of using parables? Discuss why Jesus chose to teach with parables. Share a parable that has enlightened your heart such as: The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Yeast, Lost Coin, Lost Son, Lost Sheep, etc.
2. Why would the Parable of the Four Soils be relatable for Jesus' audience? Share how you have used a relatable story to help an individual's understanding of a point you were trying to convey.
3. Who is the sower in this parable? What does the seed represent? List the four soils that represent four different spiritual conditions of the heart.
4. What is the soil in Matthew 13:4 called in other versions of the Bible? With your gardening knowledge, why won't scattered seeds grow on a beaten down path?
5. Read Matthew 13:19. What does seed sown on hardened soil represent? Discuss possible reasons for a hardened heart. Read Mark 8:16-21 and discuss the surprising condition of the disciples' hearts. When have you experienced a time when God's truth fell to the wayside and didn't take hold of your heart?
6. Some people do not understand God's truth because their hearts are not ready to hear and receive it. What is a believer's responsibility when God's truth seems to be snatched from someone's life? What is a believer's responsibility in preventing a spiritual hardening of their own heart?

Application: How will you apply Sunday's message and this discussion to your life?