

Potential Growth Discussion Guide

Lesson 2 - Rocky

(May 26, 2024)

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

Opening Discussion: Where have you seen a plant or tree that survived poor soil conditions? Google *Little Cedar Spirit Tree near Lake Superior* for an example.

Dive Deeper:

1. Read Matthew 13:1-23. The Parable of the Four Soils represents four different conditions of the heart and the ways people respond to God's message. What does a heart of rocky soil represent as stated in verses 20-21?
2. Describe the conditions of a plant growing in a rock garden as opposed to rich black soil. Why would rocky soil be detrimental to a plant's growth?
3. Read Matthew 13:5-6 and share a time you found yourself in a rocky situation that tested your faith. With what attitude did you initially approach this difficulty? Share how you may have wilted for a moment or rose to the occasion when faced with persecution or problems.
4. Read James 1:2-4 and Matthew 5:11-12. Why do some people grow in times of trouble while others do not? Discuss how our attitude can be that of joy when we encounter trouble. Consider a tree whose roots grow stronger from wind blowing against its branches. How do these verses, and the tree analogy, encourage you to adjust your attitude and grow deeper roots of faith?
5. Read Colossians 2:6-7 and Acts 17:11 and discuss why it is important to be rooted in our faith and knowledge of God's word. What biblical practices do we need to implement to reduce our rock pile of problems that cause us to wither?
6. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Colossians 1:28-29. Discuss what a rooted believer's responsibility is regarding new believers. Why is it important for new and older believers to nurture their faith? Share how you nurture your faith, which aids in preventing the enemy from interfering with your spiritual growth.

Encouragement: Despite all the things we *will* encounter, we are MORE than conquerors, because of Jesus' victory over the enemy and God's power living in us.

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