

Potential Growth Discussion Guide

Lesson 3 - Overcrowded

(June 2, 2024)

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

Opening Discussion: What weeds do you battle in your gardens and how do you combat them?

Dive Deeper:

1. Read Matthew 13:1-23. The Parable of the Four Soils represents the various conditions of one's heart and how an individual might respond to God's message. What does a heart of thorns or weeds represent in verse 22?
2. Why do weeds or thorny thistles have a tendency to grow so easily? Why do weeds and thorns choke out the growth of vegetables, flowers or farm crops?
3. Read Matthew 13:7 and 22. Discuss where God's word was sown and what was already growing. What does this say about the soil and its potential to produce growth? According to this scripture what does God's word rival against?
4. What worries distract you? What materialism vies for your attention? What crowds out your time with God? How does Satan use worry, materialism and overcrowded schedules to prevent spiritual growth?
5. How can Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 6:19-34, and 1 John 2:15 be applied to an overcrowded life of worry or materialism? How difficult is it for you to be content with eternal treasures rather than earthly riches? What earthly treasure(s) or things of this world tempt you the most? According to Matthew 6:21 and 23-24 where will an overcrowded, distracted heart eventually lead?
6. Read James 4:7-10, Ephesians 6:10-18, and Matthew 26:41. Discuss some intentional steps believers can take to combat thorns and weeds. Share how you try to resist the weeds of worldly influence in your life. What spiritual weed killer do you apply to your soil/heart to give God priority in your life?

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