

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS— MARK 4:2-20

THE SOWER AND HIS SEEDS

...the fertility of the soil in the parable tells us of the fertility of our own heart condition...

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

What can we learn from the fact that the disciples required an explanation? _____

God's word is always the seed, and it always affects the heart. Which reactions to God's word in the parable confirm faith, and which confirm judgement?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Take a moment to consider before answering, only you and God know your heart condition,. What type of soil are you?

A person's heart is always being softened and refreshed; or continually hardening. Which direction do you feel yours is going right now?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Usually it is the simplest things that are the most profound. What does it tell us that the explanation of the good soil is by far the shortest? _____

Why do you think Jesus used four distinct types of soil to tell us about our own heart conditions?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

If you are a...

- 1) Hard heart- will you consider that Satan is actively trying to distract you? Will you listen to God's word and check for truth?
- 2) Unexamined heart- will you meditate on the truth of God's word this week and let it speak in your life?
- 3) Distracted heart- will you focus this week and allow God's word to be not only true, but transformative?
- 4) Willing heart- will you pray that God's word will deepen your roots and make your fruitfulness sixty fold or even a hundred fold?