

# PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS—MARK 4: 26-34

THE KINGDOM IS LIKE.....

In this week's passage, Jesus gives two short parables, drawn from the realm of agriculture, to help us understand the Kingdom of God and our role in it. As we learn from these parables, we are freed to do our part as the sowers of God's seed in this world, trusting Him to give the growth.

## 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)

Read Mark 4:26-29. What does the seed represent in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 28 says that "the earth produces by itself". What is the significance of this statement? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Mark 4:30-34. What does the mustard seed represent in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the seed's dramatic growth teach us about the Kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

What do these two parables teach us about our role in God's Kingdom? What does it teach us about God's role? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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)

Have you ever been frustrated or burned out in ministry because you saw little or fruit for your labours? What do you think was the cause of the failure? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been discouraged about the apparent lack of growth in your own Christian life? If so, explain why. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been reluctant to engage in the work of ministry for fear of failure? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been tempted to think that the success of a ministry endeavour depended on your own efforts? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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)

How can Jesus' teaching in these two parables help you change your perspective on your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

How can this teaching change your perspective on your own growth as a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways can you begin to serve as a sower in ministry, simply planting the seed of God's Word and allowing Him to cause the increase? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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)

What steps will you take this week to sow God's seed and trust Him with the results? \_\_\_\_\_