

Jesus Stories: Parable of the Sower
This week's reading: Matthew 13:24-32
Discussion Guide: January 12, 2025

CHECK UP:

Memory Work: But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. - Matthew 13:16

Did you do any heart cultivation this past week?

OPEN:

- What was a highlight in your week this past week? What was a particular challenge you had?
- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?

READ and ASK: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-52; Matthew 10:39

- What are some ways Christians blend with non-Christians?
 - o What do you think about Christians who try to isolate themselves completely from non-Christians?
 - o What opportunities do you have by living among all kinds of different people?
- How has Satan planted seeds in order to mess up God's plan?
- Whose responsibility is it to label the weeds and deal with them?
 - o What dangers lie in trying to label people "wheat" or "weeds"?
- Which parable challenges/encourages you most? Why?
- What does this passage teach about the grim reality of hell?
 - o If Jesus taught about it, why are we so reluctant to talk about it?
 - o Taken together, how do these parables motivate positively and negatively?
- How is finding the Kingdom of God like finding a pearl of great price?
 - o How can we recover the joy and excitement that we had when we first met Christ?
 - o What would you say to someone who says that you can be a good Christian without completely "selling all" to follow Christ?

APPLY:

- How do passages like the parable of the net and the wheat and weeds make you feel?
 - o How does it challenge you to action?

- What sacrifices are you willing to make to fully embrace Christ and His kingdom?
 - o What relationships, possessions, or personal ambitions are you reluctant to give up for Christ?
 - o Other than buried treasure or a precious pearl, what illustrations could you use to explain to a friend the value of knowing Christ?

- NEXT STEP: How do you need to embrace the value and joy of the Kingdom this week? How would a full embrace practically impact the way you live?

Memory Work:

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

- Matthew 10:39

Next Week's Reading:

Matthew 13:31-35