

Community Group Discussion Guide- Mark 4:26-34

IceBreakers:

1. How many people in your group enjoy planting things? What is your favorite flower or plant and why?
2. What takes more time and effort, sowing or reaping?

Read: **26***And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; 27and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know.*

1. Jesus describes the kingdom of God as people sowing seeds; an active mission. Do you personally feel that you are fulfilling this calling to sow seeds? What does that look like in your life right now?
2. Do you struggle with wanting to see immediate results from your labor in other people's lives? Why do you think that is?
3. Jesus says that when the seed sprouts and grows that the person who sowed the seed does not know how it grew, yet it did. Do you struggle with wanting to know exactly how God works? Or do you find it exciting that there is a mystery aspect to the workings of God?

Read: **28***"The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. 29***"But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."**

1. Jesus says that the soil produces the crop by itself. What are the four soils that Jesus mentions in verses 1-20 and which one does this seed in verses 26-29 signify?
2. How do we cultivate the "soil" in other people's lives so that they are ready to receive the word, accept it and produce fruit?
3. What is this harvest that Jesus is speaking of here in verse 29? (See Matthew 13:24-30 & Revelation 14:14-20 for more context)

Read: **30***And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? 31***"It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil,**

1. How many of us struggle with faith in God or with doubting? Why do you think this is?
2. Jesus says in Matthew 17:20 that just a little bit of faith like a mustard seed can accomplish much (even the moving of a mountain!). Do we allow shame to condemn us into thinking that we don't have enough faith when Jesus says all we need is a little to accomplish great things?
3. What is something that you are believing and trusting God to do in your life right now? Share with your group.

Read: **32 yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE."**

1. Jesus says that this small seed grows up to become a massive tree that provides shade to the birds of the air. Are we a place of shade for those who are facing "sun scorching" trials like the seed in Mark 4:5-6 & 16,17?
2. Who is someone you know that needs to be brought under the shade and nurturing of the church right now because of various trials? Take the time to pray for those individuals as a community group.