



BEREAN
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL
ROMANS 1:16

Jesus Came to Bring the Kingdom of God

Mark 4:26-34

Read Mark 4:26-34 together:

The Parable of the Seed Growing

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Context:

- ? What is the context of this passage? What happened earlier in Mark 4?
- ? Who is Jesus' audience? Why do you think the parables were about soil, seeds, and sowing?
- ? Hope is defined as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." What is the hope you have as a believer in Christ?

Christians Have Hope Because God is Powerful:

- ? What does God do versus "man" in *The Parable of the Seed Growing*?
- ? What would you say to someone who is in the cycle of trying to work/earn God's favor and rescue themselves from sin?

- ? Kingdom growth has less to do with human technique and more about what God does (see vs. 27). How does knowing this influence your Kingdom work?

Christians Have Hope Because God Keeps His Promises:

- ? Hebrews 10:23-25 and Lamentations 3:21-24 describe hope in God because of his character. What characteristics of God give you hope?
- ? What does Christ's return bring an end to? How does this bring you hope?
- ? Your labor for Kingdom work is never in vain, even when you don't see results. Share an example of Kingdom work that has made a difference in your walk with Christ.

Application:

- ? What specific things do you do to hold on to the hope you have in Christ?
- ? Remember that seeds can be dormant for years until they show signs of life given by the Father. Is there someone you have shared the gospel with and have given up praying for due to a lack of response? Keep praying! Remain faithful and trust God to work out the heavy lifting in the lives of others.