



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

We're half-way through the summer. What has been your favorite part of your summer so far?

1. Pastor Tom suggested that many believers don't share their faith because they fear they will not do it right or well. What fear or perceived inadequacy keeps you from sharing the Good News of Jesus with others?
2. Read [John 6:44](#) and [1 Corinthians 3:5-8](#). The farmer in Jesus' parable was most concerned with scattering seed rather than inspecting soil. How can leaving the fruit of your outreach efforts to the Holy Spirit free you to scatter the seed of the Gospel broadly and indiscriminately?
3. Pastor Tom said the average new believer needed to hear the Gospel message at least three times before they said 'YES!' to Jesus. How does this impact the pressure you feel when sharing your faith with others and how might it change your approach to being outward focused?
4. Pastor Tom noted that thorny, hard, rocky soil can be cleared and softened by the Holy Spirit over time, making soil that was not receptive into a rich, inviting environment for the Gospel. How does this truth impact your thinking about reaching out to the "thorny, rocky-soil" kind of people in your life?
5. According to the parable, 25% of the seed sown fell in soil that was ready and waiting to receive it. If this holds true of those you encounter, how recklessly will you now spread the love of Jesus in your world to ensure you cover the 25% who are ready?

Day One: [Luke 7](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 1](#)

Day Three: [Galatians 6](#)

Day Four: [Revelation 8](#)

Day Five: [Ecclesiastes 9](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



MULTIPLY

"SOIL INSPECTORS?"
JULY 9, 2023

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MYRC.CHURCH

MULTIPLY

MESSAGE NOTES

"Soil Inspectors?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Today I want to help us see that _____ play an important part personally in helping fulfill Jesus' mission of people's lives being transformed and lost people becoming found people.

Note [Matthew 13:3-9](#)

1. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time is Something

I _____

Note [Matthew 13:3b-4a](#)

What every follower of Jesus needs to understand and _____ embrace is that anyone can be outward-focused. You and I can be _____ in God's hands to be a part of His mission of reaching lost people.

It doesn't require _____-year intensive discipleship programs, have huge amounts of Bible verses memorized, be an accomplished public speaker, or be a gifted apologist who can answer every person's questions and _____ about the Christian faith to be used by God to help reach lost people.

2. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time is Always High _____ and Often Low _____

This parable helps _____ us of what Jesus also taught us (note [John 6:44](#)).

Of course, we have a part to play; but the _____ part is the Holy Spirit's work in people's lives.

3. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time is a _____

The reality is most people need multiple _____ with the truth of the gospel (words and deeds) before they are ready to say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

The average person needs to hear the gospel at least _____ times before responding.

The farmer expected something to happen, but knew it wasn't up to him to make the sun shine, the rain fall, and the seeds to _____.

Our responsibility is to _____ encourage someone to take another step or two towards Jesus.

God will use us, but ultimately, He's the One who brings people to Himself, not how _____ we can speak (note

[1 Corinthians 3:5-8](#)).

4. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time Recognizes Different _____ Conditions

Not everyone is in the same place on their spiritual _____. The farmer was _____ where he scattered the seeds. He didn't _____ the shallow, rocky, or thorny soil.

He wasn't _____ that only 25% of the soil responded well...

He didn't feel _____ that 75% of the soil didn't respond favorably. He was responsible to scatter the seed, not for the _____ of the soil.

What does it mean for Riverside to MULTIPLY?:

- Jesus is teaching us that a _____ minority of people are open to the gospel right now.
- 25% of all the communities in a 10-mile radius of our Big Lake, Sauk Rapids, and future Buffalo campuses - _____ people!
- And when one person says 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord, the impact is far greater because they have relationships with others...that they can share their story with in _____ ways.
- And also, because God is God (and we're not), He is more than able to _____ shallow, rocky, or thorny soil into good soil.
- We're not to be soil _____, just seed scatterers.
- An act of kindness in Jesus' Name, a loving word of God's truth that someone genuinely hears...things like this can soften a hardened heart, help open a closed mind, can awaken a _____ conscience, and help someone take a step closer to Jesus.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect/next step card (digital* or hard copies). MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"Soil Inspectors?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Today I want to help us see that every one of us play an important part personally in helping fulfill Jesus' mission of people's lives being transformed and lost people becoming found people.

Note [Matthew 13:3-9](#)

1. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time is Something I Can Do

Note [Matthew 13:3b-4a](#)

What every follower of Jesus needs to understand and personally embrace is that anyone can be outward-focused. You and I can be instruments in God's hands to be a part of His mission of reaching lost people.

It doesn't require 3-year intensive discipleship programs, have huge amounts of Bible verses memorized, be an accomplished public speaker, or be a gifted apologist who can answer every person's questions and objections about the Christian faith to be used by God to help reach lost people.

2. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time is Always High Grace and Often Low Risk

This parable helps remind us of what Jesus also taught us (note [John 6:44](#)).

Of course we have a part to play; but the biggest part is the Holy Spirit's work in people's lives.

3. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time is a Process

The reality is most people need multiple encounters with the truth of the gospel (words and deeds) before they are ready to say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

The average person needs to hear the gospel at least 3 times before responding.

The farmer expected something to happen, but knew it wasn't up to him to make the sun shine, the rain fall, and the seeds to germinate. Our responsibility is to gently encourage someone to take another step or two towards Jesus.

God will use us, but ultimately, He's the One who brings people to Himself, not how persuasively we can speak (note [1 Corinthians 3:5-8](#)).

4. Sharing the Greatest Good News of All-Time Recognizes Different Soil Conditions

Not everyone is in the same place on their spiritual journey. The farmer was unconcerned where he scattered the seeds. He didn't avoid the shallow, rocky, or thorny soil.

He wasn't discouraged that only 25% of the soil responded well... He didn't feel guilty that 75% of the soil didn't respond favorably. He was responsible to scatter the seed, not for the condition of the soil.

What does it mean for Riverside to MULTIPLY?:

- Jesus is teaching us that a significant minority of people are open to the gospel right now.
- 25% of all the communities in a 10-mile radius of our Big Lake, Sauk Rapids, and future Buffalo campuses - 50,000 people!
- And when one person says 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord, the impact is far greater because they have relationships with others...that they can share their story with in meaningful ways.
- And also, because God is God (and we're not), He is more than able to transform shallow, rocky, or thorny soil into good soil.
- We're not to be soil inspectors, just seed scatterers.
- An act of kindness in Jesus' Name, a loving word of God's truth that someone genuinely hears...things like this can soften a hardened heart, help open a closed mind, can awaken a slumbering conscience, and help someone take a step closer to Jesus.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect/next step card (digital* or hard copies).

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