

Kingdom Rising
“Seeds and Soils”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: Tell a story of personal gardening success!

KEY THOUGHT: ***Few who hear God’s Word bear God’s fruit***

GETTING THE POINT

Read Mark 4:1-12

1. How many soils DON’T yield fruit? How many DO yield fruit? What do you take from this?
2. Contrast the scenes of verses 1 and 10. What is the significance of these differences?
3. According to verses 11 and 12, why did Jesus teach with stories rather than teaching straightforwardly?

Read Mark 4:13-20

4. What does Jesus mean by “the word”?
5. List the six distractions that keep the Word from taking root, in verses 15-19.
6. What distinguishes the persons who bear fruit from the ones who don’t?

GETTING DEEPER

Read James 1:21

1. What key verb here characterizes our response to the “implanted word”?
2. What is the result of successfully implanting the word, according to James? According to Mark?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What part of our fruitfulness is up to God? What part is up to us?
2. What does “receiving with meekness the implanted word” look like?
3. How does this passage relate to Mark’s broader message about the coming of God’s Kingdom?
4. Which of the six distractions do you think is most common in our Bucks County culture? Which do you personally need to guard against? How will you do that?

PRAY...

that the Lord will open more hearts to His word so that they may be fruitful for Him.