

## Small Group Study Questions

1. Did you live or spend any time on a farm growing up? If so, what did you appreciate most or least about it?
2. Read today's passage (**Mark 4:1-20**), review the sermon points, and share anything from the sermon that you found especially interesting, challenging or useful.
3. Review the definition of a **"parable"** that was given in the sermon. **In vv.10-13**, Jesus says that His parables were meant to instruct believers, but also serve as a warning to unbelievers. Does this make sense to you? Explain your answer.
4. Review the four kinds of **"soil"** Jesus mentioned in this parable and the spiritual heart condition each one represents. Do any of those "soils" resonate with you in the sense that it's what your heart was like before you trusted Christ, or as something you may still battle with today as a follower of Jesus?
5. Do you typically approach the teaching of God's Word (on a Sunday morning, in a Bible study, or at small group, etc.) with a sense of expectation — believing that the Lord can and even will deal with your heart through it in a personal way? Why or why not? Is there anything you could do to cultivate a deeper sense of expectation?
6. Is there a way in which you'd like to dig deeper into the Bible in 2018? If so, how — or do you need ideas on how to do so? Take some time as a group, before wrapping up, to suggest ideas or share experiences on how each of you can learn more of God's Word this year.