

# groups

Study Group: Leader Guide  
Mark 4:3-8, 13-20 – February 18-24

## CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

## STUDY

*Main Topics: Evangelism, Spiritual Fruit, Rooted in Christ*

Read Mark 4:3-8

- Why would Jesus speak in parables to the people?
- What are different responses you expect the crowd had to this parable?
- Why would the farmer throw his seed in every direction? (See Leader Notes)

Read Mark 4:13-20

- Why is there such a great harvest in the good soil?
- How does this parable shed light on the various responses to Jesus?
- What does this story teach us about failure and success in evangelism?

## APPLY

- What excuses keep us from sharing the Gospel with others on a regular basis?
  - How do we fight against those excuses with Scripture?
- Have you ever experienced or seen some of the hindrances mentioned in v. 15-19?
- How is good soil created?
- Why is it so important to be rooted in Christ?
  - *How* does one become rooted in Him?
- What do the harvests of our lives look like? (See Leader Notes)
- Throughout the history of the Church when persecution or trouble arose many fall away from the Church. If persecution broke out against Christians today, would we be ready to face it?
- Who are you sharing the Gospel with that you would like our group to pray for?

## CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?

## Leader Notes:

Soil 2 and 3:

One of the questions that often is raised about soils #2 and #3 is — are these people real Christians who have “fallen away” or are these people who were never Christians? Soil #2 does not appear to represent true disciples, but there is doubt about soil #3. The view that these are Christians rests on the fact that v. 19 shows that the plant grows and seems to last. (The second soil produces plants that “fall away” — they die off). But though it doesn’t wither, it also bears no fruit. Thus it is of no more use to the farmer than the grain that never sprouted at all. So a fruitless Christian is a loss to the Master.

Why would the farmer throw his seed in every direction?

Some might say that the seed *shouldn't* be thrown in every direction by citing that we are not to “give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs” in Matthew 7:8. This Scripture is not referring to the initial sharing of the Gospel. It is speaking about the continual rejection and hatred for the Gospel that some have. If this is the case after showing obedience to God and His Word by sharing His Gospel with them, then we are to “move on” and continue sharing elsewhere. This does not mean that we cease praying for these individuals or, necessarily, stop pursuing friendship with them. We continue to treat them as Jesus Himself would have – with authentic care and sacrificial love.

What do the harvests of our lives look like?

It's not just about numbers, but if you looked back on your life right now, who would say “That person helped me grow to know God deeply”? When you get down to it, that's all that matters! It doesn't matter about having a friend who just gives us a good time or makes us feel good about ourselves or who we share great jokes with. It's only going to be about how we pointed people to Jesus when we enter heaven one day. *That* is what will last. Yes, we use the things of this earth like technology, road trips, humor, food, & entertainment to point others to Christ. But are we? Or are we pursuing those things thinking that they'll be the ones to give us lasting satisfaction?

## Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

## What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 1 of 3 categories: Study, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at [bocacommunity.org/groups](http://bocacommunity.org/groups)

This curriculum has been sampled from Tim Keller's leader material on the study of Mark.