



Women in the Word

Mark 4

February 2, 2012

1. What do you think it takes to listen well?

2. A parable is a short story using familiar scenes and everyday objects and relationships to explain a spiritual truth. A parable generally has only one meaning. Read Mark 4:1-9. What words or ideas are repeated in Mark 4:3-9?

Write down the four types of soil or ground on which the seed falls in Mark 4:3-8.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

Next to each soil, put what happens to the seed that falls on that type of ground.

3. What word does Jesus use to begin His teaching in Mark 4:3?

Why do you think Jesus begins in this way? Also consider Mark 4:9.

4. Read Mark 4:10-13. What is the secret or mystery of the Kingdom of God referred to in verse 11? See these verses for insight: Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:7-10; 1 Timothy 3:16; Mark 10:45.

5. When Jesus is alone with His disciples, He explains the parable. According to Mark 4:14, what is being sown?

6. What are the four ways people receive the Word of God according to Jesus in Mark 4:15-20?

Give examples from your own life on how we can respond to God's Word in a shallow or distracted way.

Share a time when you embraced God's Word and it made a difference in your life in such a way that it went on to affect the lives of others.

7. Read Mark 4:21-25. What is the purpose of a lamp? In what ways are our lives for Christ like a lamp?

8. Read Mark 4:26-29. List the two things the man does in Mark 4:26-29. Who causes the seed to sprout and grow? Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 for insight.

What does this parable tell us about the Kingdom of God?

9. Read Mark 4:30-32. What does verse 31 say about the mustard seed? And then, what happens to the mustard seed when it is planted according to Mark 4:32?

What insight is Jesus giving us about the Kingdom of God in this parable?

In what ways do the parables of the mustard seed and the growing seed in Mark 4:26-29 encourage you?

10. Read Mark 4:33-34. What do these verses tell us about the relationship between Jesus and His disciples?

11. Read Mark 4:35-41. The disciples were afraid before Jesus calmed the storm, and then Mark 4:41 tells us they were terrified after He calmed the seas. What is the difference in the way the disciples felt before and then after the miracle of Jesus?

12. Read Mark 4:35-41 again, and then close your eyes, and for several moments put yourself in the boat with the disciples and consider Jesus from this viewpoint.

What is *your* reaction? How might this strengthen your faith concerning future fears?

13. Do you have a personal prayer request for your small group?