



STUDY GUIDE – December 1, 2019

Message Title: Faith

Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Check-in: (10 mins) What can we celebrate about your past week? How can we pray for you today?

Pray for our time together, that the Holy Spirit would instruct us and guide our conversation.

Get Started: (5 mins)

- Ask the group to share any good or not-so-good gardening experience they've had. This can be with growing food to eat (like a vegetable garden) or flowers and ornamental plants. It can be indoors or outdoors. Just share about any experience you've ever had with growing plants.
- Now, share with each other the story of your faith. If you are a follower of Jesus, how and when did this happen? How would you describe your faith today. If you are not a Follower of Jesus, describe where you are on this journey?
- Read together Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. You can stop and talk along the way if a question or comment arises.
 - Identify the characters:
 - Who is the Farmer?
 - What is the Seed?
 - What does the soil represent?

Watch and Discuss the Video (30 mins).

Dive in: (15 mins)

- This Parable is given to us 3 times in the Bible: Matthew, Mark and Luke. If your SG is large enough, break into 2 groups of 3-4 people. (smaller groups will modify this) One group read Mark 4:1-20 and the other read Luke 8:4-15. What jumps out at you as you read? What questions do you have? What conclusion(s) do you form? Do this for 10 minutes or so and then come back together and share your findings.
- Brian said there were 4 'Dirt Types' based on Jesus' teaching: Hard, Shallow, Crowded, Fertile. Based on the Scripture, Sunday's message and on the video you just saw, talk together about where each of you are. How would you define your 'dirt type' right now?
- What steps do you think you need to take to move closer to fertile soil?

Reflect: (15 mins) Before you leave, ask how you can help each other move towards the soil that produces a crop of 100X what was sown! And be sure to pray for each other.

Commit: (10 mins) What are you going to do this week in response to this week's small group study and/or service?

Pray: (5 mins) Pray for the group members and the commitments made above.