SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Fall 2026:
week 4

In Matthew 13:1–23, Jesus uses the familiar picture of a farmer scattering seed to show how people respond to God's Word. The same seed falls on four different kinds of soil, but each produces a different result. Some hearts struggle to receive the message, some welcome it but lack roots when trouble comes, and others allow worry and wealth to crowd it out. The good soil represents those who hear, understand, and allow God's Word to bear fruit in their lives.

The sermon invites us to consider the condition of our own hearts: How receptive are we to Jesus and his rule in our lives? This parable offers an invitation to grow in humility, receptivity, and obedience. As we welcome God's Word, we can ask him to soften hard places, deepen our roots, and help us respond with action. The invitation is to hear Jesus in a way that shapes how we live.

Getting To Know You

Ice-breakers are designed to establish common ground, help you get to know other people and share a little bit about your life.

1. If you could grow an endless supply of one food in your backyard, what would you pick?

2. Have you ever tried to keep something alive—a plant, a sourdough starter, a pet? How did it go? We'd love to hear the success story—or the disaster!

3. If you had five minutes to teach our group a skill, what would you teach us?

Digging Deeper

These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the sermon topic, relevant scriptures, and provide deeper opportunities for reflection.

1. Read Matthew 13:1–23. As you think about this passage and this weekend's sermon, what caught your attention or stayed with you? Why do you think it stood out?

2. Look again at Matthew 13:18–23. What differences do you notice among the four soils? Can you seen yourself in each of these soils? How do these pictures help us understand the difference between simply hearing God's Word and letting it shape how we live?

3. Read Hebrews 3:12–15. Our hearts can become less responsive to God gradually, sometimes without us noticing. What do you think contributes to that? What would it look like for us to encourage one another toward God with honesty, kindness, and humility?

4. The rocky soil describes someone who welcomes God's Word with joy but struggles when trouble comes. Thinking about a difficult season in your own life, what helped your faith grow deeper roots? What support did you need—or do you need now?

5. Read James 1:22–25. Can you think of a time when you knew what God's Word was inviting you to do but found it hard to follow through? What helps you take that next step from understanding to obedience?

6. The sermon highlighted humility, receptivity, and obedience. Which of these feels like an area where God is inviting you to grow right now? What might that growth look like in your everyday life?

Application

The goal is life transformation, not simple discussion. Application is how we live differently because of this week's teachings and discussions.

1. Read Hosea 10:12. As you reflect on our conversation, what is one specific step you could take this week to make room for God's Word to take deeper root? How can we encourage you in that step?

Prayer Requests

Take time to record prayer requests here. Confidentiality is an important part of a healthy small group.