SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Fall 2026:
week 5

In Luke 13: 18-20 Jesus tells two brief parables. He compares the kingdom of God to the tiny mustard seed and the common baking ingredient yeast. Both of these small, common ingredients were well known in Jesus' time and made a tremendous difference in the foods they ate. Without flavoring or yeast, their food would be drab. Beyond that, each item contributed to something useful: a tree and bread, creating something useful for birds to perch and for people to eat.

The kingdom of God is so much more complex...and yet it isn't. Like the seed and the yeast, we can't watch the transformation at the cellular level, but we know it exists. As such, our acceptance into the kingdom transforms. Not just us personally but our families, neighbors, communities until all are blessed.

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. What is an item you own that is small but is incredibly valuable or helpful?

2. What is the one item you own that was an extravagant purchase at the time of purchase?

3. What is a weekly discipline in your life that is not optional?

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 Luke 13:10-17. As you think about this passage and this week's sermon, what catches your attention? What stands out to you?

2. Though it might seem so clear to us that this woman needed healing – despite it being the Sabbath – the Pharisees would have rather Jesus wait for Monday or let a doctor see her. How often have we neglected to give the help we can offer and instead wait for or hope someone else does it? Has this ever happened to you?

3. Read Zechariah 4:10 & Haggai 2: 3-9

Jesus' ministry may have looked like a fledgling movement, but His kingdom had been building for centuries. No small start lacks significance. These verses refer to the building of the temple, but they also refer to Christ's reign. Which N.T. stories point to small beginnings used by Jesus to grow his kingdom?

4. Pastor Bob talked about extensive growth and intensive transformation. We expect that watching our children grow up, but can you think of an example of someone who grew and transformed significantly starting as an adult?

5. In the beginning of Jesus's ministry, those who felt threatened may have consoled themselves saying Jesus wasn't too big a threat, maybe just a passing fad. Jesus knew that he was beginning a revolution and soon others did, too. What stories or instances in Jesus's ministry come to mind that showed this was much bigger than mere inspiration?

6. Was there something in Pastor Bob's message that stood out to you or in some way was used to nudge you?

Application

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

1. We were encouraged to not be a passive recipient but an active participant. What ideas have already come to mind for how you can do that this week?

Prayer Requests

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