

**Getting to Know Each Other.**

Share light refreshments. Go around the group and introduce yourselves and talk through this question: *“What is a plant you planted as a seed that that grew up to maturity?”* \*

**Follow up.** Did you get to share with someone about Jesus this past week?  
Or how else did you obey Jesus?

**Vision.** Jesus told us to “Make disciples.” The purpose of our Life Group is: To help people become Believers in Jesus and grow up to become Disciple Makers.

**Bible Study Introduction.** In the passage we will read today, Jesus tells a parable that explains how people will respond to the message about Jesus’ kingdom. After telling the parable to the crowd, Jesus explains its meaning to His disciples. Jesus tells His disciples that understanding this parable will help them understand His other parables and teaching.

**Pray.** Before we read the Scripture, let’s pray that God will speak to each one of us.

**Read.** We will read through the passage two times and then discuss it, so listen carefully. Get two people to read **Mark 4:1-20**. \*\*

**Discuss** these questions, one at a time, encouraging everyone who wants to respond to do so. Remind the group: Keep your answers based just on this passage.

1. What stands out or surprises you in this passage?
2. What does it show us about people and choices we can make?
  - Jesus said peoples’ hearts are like Hard soil, Rocky soil, Thorny soil, or Good soil. Which of these four types seem to you to be the most common?
  - Which kind of soil do you think your heart is most of the time?
3. What does this passage show us about God?
  - When the disciples asked Jesus, He gladly explained the parable to them. What does this show about God’s desire to reveal His will to us?
  - In what way could you say Jesus’ parables are like a spiritual hearing test?
  - Whichever soil your heart is like right now, what could you do differently that would help the words of God take root and become fruitful in you?

**Obeying Jesus.** As disciples of Jesus, we want to follow Jesus in whatever way He is leading us today. As we pray silently for 30 seconds, see if God speaks to your heart. Pray something like this:  
*“Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do with what You are showing me today?”* [30 sec. silent prayer]

Remember to obey what God is saying to you. And this week ask God who He wants you to talk with about Jesus. Let’s close in prayer.

**Closing Prayer.**

Pray something like: “Lord, prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing the Good News of Jesus with this week. And give us strength and joy as we follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

\* Use a different “icebreaker” if you prefer.

\*\* Reading from different translations often helps.