

Getting to Know Each Other.

Share light refreshments. Go around the group and introduce yourselves and talk through this question: *“What encouraging words did someone say to you that made a big difference in your life?”**

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 two parable that help us understand the Kingdom of God. Let’s read this with the expectancy that God will give us fresh understanding of His Kingdom and our part in it.

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 4:26-34.** **

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 taught about His kingdom using many parables. What is so good about parables?
 - In the first parable, the farmer planted the seeds, but God caused the growth. What would have been the result if the farmer didn’t do his part to plant the seeds?
 - Who planted “seeds of truth” into your life that have helped you come closer to Jesus?
 - What are some of Jesus’ parables or things Jesus did and said that you still remember?¹
3. What does this passage show us about God?
 - The farmer planted enough seeds for a full crop. What does that say God wants us to do?
 - Jesus still explains things to His followers if we will make the time to listen to Him. What is something that you struggled with that Jesus has helped you to understand?
 - We plant seeds of the kingdom of God in the hearts of others by telling them things Jesus did and parables He told. Who is Jesus bringing to mind for you to reach out to?

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.*

¹ *Examples: Prodigal son. One lost sheep. Welcoming little children. “Love your neighbor.”*