

Let Them Hear
Mark 4:1-20

Neil Trainer
November 17, 2019



NOTES

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Mark 4:1-20

Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- If you were a farmer today, what crop(s) would you like to grow? Why?
- *Read Mark 4:1-20.* Some refer to Jesus' story as the "Parable of the Sower," others as the "Parable of the Soils." What do you think the best title is? Why?
- In Jesus' story, what do all the places the seed falls have in common? According to Jesus, what is the seed?
- Why does the seed not take root in some people? What causes some to wither? What causes others to be choked? Can you give concrete examples of what each of the first three soils might look like in a person's life?
- How is the good soil different from the others? How does the good soil become good?
- Which of the soils do you identify with most right now? Why?
- If time allows, read Isaiah 6:1-13. What is happening in this story? How does this context shed light on the meaning of Jesus' quotation of Isaiah 6:9, 10 in Mark 4:12?
- What contemporary examples can you give of those who follow Christ gaining new insight into the kingdom of God while those on the outside do not?
- In Jesus' story, who does the farmer represent? In what ways have Jesus' disciples today been given the responsibility of sowing the seed of God's word? How can you do this?

For Family Discussion: Ask: *What are some of the plants or flowers inside and outside our home? Read Mark 4:1-20. Ask: In Jesus' story, what causes some of the seeds to not grow while others do grow? What does Jesus say the seed represents? How is this seed growing in our family?*

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.

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