



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: What to Expect on the Missional Journey

DATE: May 2, 2021

PASSAGE: Matthew 13

SPEAKER: Pastor Brian Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Do you have a "green thumb"? Do things grow well for you? Or not?

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Bold indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- Have you spent time this week praying for the person you are "not giving up on" (as mentioned in last week's sermon)? Open in prayer by praying through your collective list together.
Especially if this activity was a meaningful part of last week's discussion, open in prayer by praying through the list as a group again. Pray for kingdom growth in the lives of those you are refusing to give up on.
- Read Matthew 13:3-9 and 13:18-23. Review the types of seeds and what they represent. Have you seen this play out in real life with people?
Keep the conversation moving along as best you can. Have a goal in mind of where you (and God's Spirit) want this week's conversation to land and try not to get too distracted along the way. It's easy for answers to this question to turn into gossip or complaining. Fight to avoid that.
- How might the parable of the Sower have helped the disciples understand what was happening in their ministry? How can it help us in our "kingdom work" (ministry) today?
- What does Jesus say the kingdom of heaven is like in Matthew 13:44-46? What kind of value does this indicate the kingdom of heaven has? How valuable is the Kingdom to you? Why? What does it mean to "sell everything" for the Kingdom?
- **As you reflect on the point Jesus makes in the parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast, what aspects of Jesus' ministry seem small? What may seem small today in what you do for the Lord, Woodland's Church does, missionaries do?**
Use this question to encourage your members, especially in the unseen and seemingly insignificant things they are doing to serve the kingdom. No action is too small. Include praying for others, modeling faith for children, even the mundane tasks of keeping a home that is used to welcome others. All are labors for the Lord.
- In what way(s) do you see and hear opposition (evil, Satan) at work in today's world. Give an example.
- **ACTIVITY: Make a list of what you are doing for the Kingdom and pray over it. As a starting point, revisit the "not giving up on" list you made last week. The people you are pursuing with the gospel is a valuable kingdom work.**
 - **Give thanks to the Lord for allowing you to serve Him in each way.**
 - **Ask Him to bless your efforts by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
 - **Pray whatever else you feel led to pray over this work.***Use this activity to build a sense of celebration and encouragement among your group. Praise God with and for each other.*

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Visit the resource page on our website to find ideas on how to Faithfully Follow Jesus this week. [Go there](https://woodlandchurch.org/resources/) individually, as a group, or both! Spur each other on to love and good deeds. (Here's the new url: <https://woodlandchurch.org/resources/>)