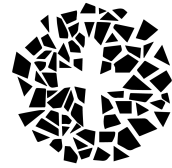


# INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 8:1-15

Community Group Study Guide  
Week of February 10, 2019



MOSAIC BOSTON  
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week we looked at Luke 8:1-15 where Jesus preached the parable of the sower. This parable is unlike others in that Jesus gives us the explanation of the parable's meaning as well. Jesus disciples had come to Him, desperate to know the parable's meaning, and through the following interaction He not only gave them the meaning of this particular parable, but also a glimpse into why he used parables to begin with. What He reveals is surprising! Unlike most communicators, who naturally want everyone to understand their message as clearly as possible, Jesus would often speak in parables to intentionally veil the truth of His message from those who did not have "ears to hear." In other words, the ability to decipher Jesus' parables was partly contingent upon the heart condition of the listener.

There are layers of implications to this text. First, we see a great example of the seemingly paradoxical interaction between God's sovereignty and human responsibility when it comes to salvation, and our response to the Gospel. Second, we see that the best evidence of a person's salvation is not their immediate response, but the patient perseverance of a life lived faithfully in obedience to God's word. Jesus will always have many fair weather "followers" who display superficial signs of faith, but they will eventually turn away from Christ when their faith is tested. Third, we see that in obeying our call to evangelism we can sow, but cannot save people ourselves. Our job is to scatter the seed (Gospel message), but true growth and fruitful maturity is out of our hands. For people to be saved and grow in the faith, God needs to regenerate their hearts into "good soil" the Gospel can grow in.

These implications should make us both humble and confident as we follow Jesus and share the Gospel. We are humbled because we know we did nothing to save ourselves, and we can do nothing to save anyone else. Only Jesus can save. This should also make us confident because God's word has the power to soft hard hearts and open spiritually deaf ears. We see listed in Jesus' own band of disciples a number of people who would have been very rocky soil and unlikely candidates for salvation (even a women possessed by seven demons) and yet Jesus powerfully saved them. If he could save them, and if he could save us, then we should have courage to boldly share the Gospel with others as well.

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

To understand the meaning and implications of Jesus parable of the sower.

### Heart

To have soft contrite hearts growing in humility and repentance before God's and His Word.

### Hands

To read and obey God's word, to persevere in the faith, and to boldly share the Gospel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Membership or Baptism:

Contact

[admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

### Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact [andy@mosaicboston.com](mailto:andy@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### ICE BREAKER

Have you ever lived, worked, or visited a farm?

#### Read Luke 8:1-15

- What initially stood out to you as we read this passage?
- Jesus says the meaning of the parable is for those who have “ears to hear.” What does that mean? What does it look like to not have “ears to hear”?
- Pastor Jan mentioned some objective ways that humans on average have become worse at listening and retaining information in the last few decades. He also mentioned that we all have presuppositions, biases, and emotional blockers through which we filter information. Have you experienced this in ways that’s made it hard for you to understand or accept truth from God’s word? How have you changed or grown in your ability to listen to Scripture with “ears to hear”?
- What are some of the other practical implications this passage has for us as we listen to sermons or read God’s word in Scripture?
- We should approach this parable from the perspective of those who must hear God’s word ourselves, but we can also approach it as those who have been commanded to go out and share God’s word and the Gospel with others. Why is it helpful to read this parable from both perspectives and what are some of the different implications and applications of reading it both ways?
- Where do we see God’s sovereignty and human responsibility both at work in this text? What are some of the practical implications of this? Or, how should it both challenge and encourage us?
- Jesus’ parable reveals that many false disciples who appear to have faith will fall away when their faith is tested. He also shows that true faith can be tested by both pleasure/prosperity and by trials/tribulations. Which have you found to be more testing of your faith? Have there been specific times where you feel your faith has been or is being tested?
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 tells us, *“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”* How do we test ourselves in the faith and why might it sometimes be beneficial for us to do so, or to encourage others to do so?
- Why is the list of Jesus’ disciples in 8:1-3 important and how does it depend our understanding of Jesus parable?