



## Discussion Guide: DIG

**Series:** Root to Fruit **Scripture:** Matthew 13:3-9; John 15:5-8; Genesis 1:28

### I. The Check-In

- **The Productivity Pulse:** On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being an empty beach, 10 being a 5-alarm fire), how overwhelmed does your to-do list feel right now?
- **The Keynes Conundrum:** In 1930, economists predicted we'd only work 15 hours a week by now. Why do you think technology has made us *busier* instead of giving us more leisure?

### II. Digging Into the Message

#### 1. The Divine Invitation

- **Read Genesis 1:28 and Colossians 1:10.**
- The sermon noted that "Productivity isn't a secular invention; it's a divine invitation." How does it change your perspective to know that God *wants* you to be fruitful?
- Where is the line between "working for God's glory" and "working for our own identity"?

#### 2. Achieving vs. Receiving

- **Read John 15:5.**
- Jesus says, "Apart from me you can do nothing." If we can still check items off a list without God, what kind of "nothing" is Jesus talking about?
- **The Lemon Tree Visual:** A tree that produces more than its branches can support will eventually split. Have you ever experienced a "soul-split" from over-production? What were the warning signs?

#### 3. The Miracle in the Seed

- **The Soil Metaphor:** We often try to be the Farmer (the one in control) or the Seed (the one with the power). What does it mean for your daily stress levels to accept that you are simply the **Soil**?
- If "everything you need is already in the Seed," how does that change the way you approach a project or a difficult season?

### III. The Three Barriers

**Read Matthew 13:3-9.** Jesus identifies three things that stop the seed from working. Which one are you currently battling most?

- **The Path (The Hard Heart):** Are you so "busy" and self-reliant that new ideas or spiritual growth can't even get below the surface?
- **The Rocks (The Shallow Heart):** Are there "natural barriers" (old habits/hurts) that you've been avoiding? How is that lack of depth affecting your "weathering" of hard times?
- **The Thorns (The Divided Heart):** What are the specific "thorns" (distractions/worries) currently choking out your time with God?

#### **IV. The Challenge: The Work of the Plow**

**A.W. Tozer said:** *"The fallow field is smug... safe and undisturbed... but it is paying a terrible price for its tranquility."*

- The "plow" of God's word can feel "cruel, business-like, and in a hurry" because it breaks us up. Can you share a time when God had to "plow" or "dig" into your life to prepare you for something better?
- **Identity Precedes Impact:** Before you leave, identify **one area** of your life where you need to stop *achieving* and start *receiving* this week.

#### **Prayer Prompt**

*Lord, we confess that we often try to be the Farmer of our own lives. We ask You to break up the hard ground of our hearts. Help us to abide in the Vine this week so that the fruit we produce comes from Your strength, not our exhaustion. Amen.*