



# Small Group Discussion Guide: The Call to Plant

**Series:** Root to Fruit (Week 3)

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:19, Matthew 13:3-9, Matthew 9:37-38

## Icebreaker

**The "Green Thumb" Check:** On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being "I kill plastic plants" and 10 being "I have a prize-winning garden"), how are your gardening skills? What is one thing you've tried to "grow" in your life recently (a hobby, a habit, a project)?

## Part 1: From Personal to Productive

*Read Isaiah 43:19 and Matthew 13:3-9*

1. **The New Thing:** Isaiah 43:19 says God is doing a "new thing" and asks, "*Do you not perceive it?*" Why is it often hard to see the new things God is doing while we are in the middle of a "wilderness" or "desert" season?
2. **Productivity vs. Privacy:** We often hear that faith is a "personal relationship with Jesus." The sermon argued that it must also be a *productive* relationship. What is the difference between a faith that is merely personal and a faith that is productive?
3. **The Farmer's Intent:** If God is the Farmer and we are the soil, what kind of "fruit" do you think He is looking for in your life right now?

**Sticky Statement:** *"A personal relationship with Jesus is the start; a productive relationship with Jesus is the point."*

## Part 2: Designed for Increase

*Read Genesis 2:18 and Ephesians 5:31-32*

1. **The Partnership:** God's first command was to "be fruitful and multiply." How does the idea of "Together is Better" apply to our spiritual growth? Why can't we produce a full harvest in isolation?

2. **Intimacy to Industry:** The sermon mentioned that "Intimacy with God results in industry for God." When you feel closest to God, does it usually make you want to sit still, or does it move you to serve others? Why?

## Part 3: The Environment & The Obstacles

Read Matthew 13:22 (*The Parable of the Sower*)

1. **Serving vs. Swerving:** We discussed that the church is a "sending center," not a "social club." If you are currently serving on a team, how has that impacted your growth? If you aren't, what is the biggest hurdle keeping you from jumping in?
2. **Identifying Thorns:** The "thorns" in Matthew 13 are described as the *cares of this world* and the *deceitfulness of riches*.
  - What "cares" (worries, chores, busyness) most often choke out your spiritual productivity?
  - How does the "Comparison Trap" act as a thorn in your life? (e.g., wishing you had someone else's gift instead of using your own).

## Part 4: The Call to Labor

Read Matthew 9:37-38

1. **The Harvest Prayer:** Jesus tells us to pray for *laborers*, not for a bigger harvest. Why do you think the "laborers" are the missing piece of the equation?
2. **The "More" Factor:** The sermon challenged us that "some are called to more." Is there an area of leadership, ministry, or church planting that you've felt a "nudge" toward but have been afraid to pursue because of finances or fear?

## Closing Challenge & Prayer

**The "Check" Reflection:** Think about the story of the \$10,000 check. Where is fear of "not enough" stopping you from saying "yes" to God?

**Prayer Prompt:** \* Ask God to help the group "perceive" the new thing He is doing.

- Pray for the "laborers" in your group—that those called to lead would have the courage to step out of the thorns and into their calling.

**Sticky Statement to Take Home:**

*"Comparison is the chokehold of calling. Don't let a thorn keep you from the throne."*