

A young green seedling with two leaves is growing out of dark soil. The soil is covered with small, light-colored insects, possibly beetles or ants, which are visible around the base of the plant. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white, suggesting a bright, airy environment. The overall scene is a close-up, focusing on the small plant and the activity of the soil.

Safe Enough to Grow

Matthew 13:1 - 23

Aramis Hinds Sr.

"Safety isn't just an environment you create—it's an experience a person has. And people don't access growth, intimacy, or clarity until their system feels safe enough to stop scanning for danger. The goal isn't to prove safety every minute—because life is always moving. The goal is to build environments that are genuinely safe and help people develop the internal capacity to recognize safety when it's present."

Why does the same seed
produce different results?

Core Idea

It's not the seed.

It's the environment.

The parable of the sower in Matthew 13 reveals a profound truth: the same seed, scattered by the same sower, produces wildly different results depending on where it lands.

The variable isn't the seed. It's the soil. It's the ground. It's the environment.

Foundation Statement

Safety isn't just what you create– **it's what people experience.** Growth doesn't happen until people feel safe enough to stop scanning for danger.

Safety Defined

Being Safe

Objective safety – the actual absence of threat or harm in your environment.

Feeling Safe

Subjective safety – the internal experience of calm, trust, and openness.

Knowing You're Safe

Cognitive safety – the awareness and assurance that grounds your sense of security.

ISAIAH 26:3 (NLT)

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"

Internal Safety

Point

Internal focus shapes felt safety.

Where your thoughts are fixed determines the peace you experience.

People don't grow where
they don't feel safe

Not Safe to Open

MATTHEW 13:19 (NLT)

"**The evil one** comes and snatches away the seed..."

Closed

Guarded

No Access

Why People Stay Closed

Point

Fear shuts environments down internally.

When fear is the operating system, openness becomes impossible.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7 (NLT)

"God has not given us a spirit of fear..."

Not Safe to Stay

MATTHEW 13:20 - 21 (NLT)

"They receive it with joy... but they don't have deep roots..."

Shallow

Inconsistent

No Depth

PSALM 121:7 - 8 (NLT)

"The Lord keeps you...
watches over your life..."

Stability

Point

Consistent covering produces stability.

When we know we are watched over,
our roots can go deep.

Not Safe to Focus

MATTHEW 13:22 (NLT)

"The message is crowded out by the worries of this life..."

Overwhelmed

Distracted

Choked

Overload vs Peace

Point

Internal peace reduces "choking" pressure.

Peace is not the absence of pressure – it's the presence of God in the middle of it.

JOHN 14:27 (NLT)

"Peace of mind and heart...
don't be troubled or afraid."

Soil vs Ground

Soil = Internal

What's in me

The condition of your heart, mind, and spirit that receives the seed.

Ground = External

What's around me

The environment, relationships, and systems that surround and shape you.

PSALM 91:1 - 2 (NLT)

"Those who live in the shelter... will find rest..."

Internal + External Together

Point

Safety is both position (environment) and experience (rest).

You need both to truly grow.

Good soil grows it. Good
ground protects it.

The Problem

❏ You don't just need good soil– you need **managed ground**.

Good intentions aren't enough. Good soil without managed ground leaves growth exposed, vulnerable, and ultimately unprotected. The work of creating safety is ongoing – it must be tended, guarded, and maintained.

If your system is always
scanning for danger, it
cannot grow

Rest = Safety

Point

Safety produces rest → rest produces growth.

This is the sequence God designed. You cannot shortcut it.

PSALM 4:8 (NLT)

"In peace I will lie down and sleep... for you alone... keep me safe."

Cultivate (Internal)

Build Safety

Tend the soil of your heart. Address what's inside – the fears, wounds, and patterns that keep you closed, shallow, or distracted.

Remove what doesn't belong. Identify the thorns, rocks, and hard paths in your environment that are stealing or stunting growth.

Safety is not a one-time event. It requires consistent, intentional protection of the environment where growth is happening.

PSALM 4:8 (NLT)

"In peace I will lie down and sleep... for you alone... keep me safe."

HEBREWS 4:16 (NLT)

"Let us come boldly to the throne..."

Access Requires Safety

Point

Safety creates access, intimacy, and growth.

Boldness is only possible where safety has been established.

MATTHEW 13:23 (NLT)

"The seed... produces a
harvest..."

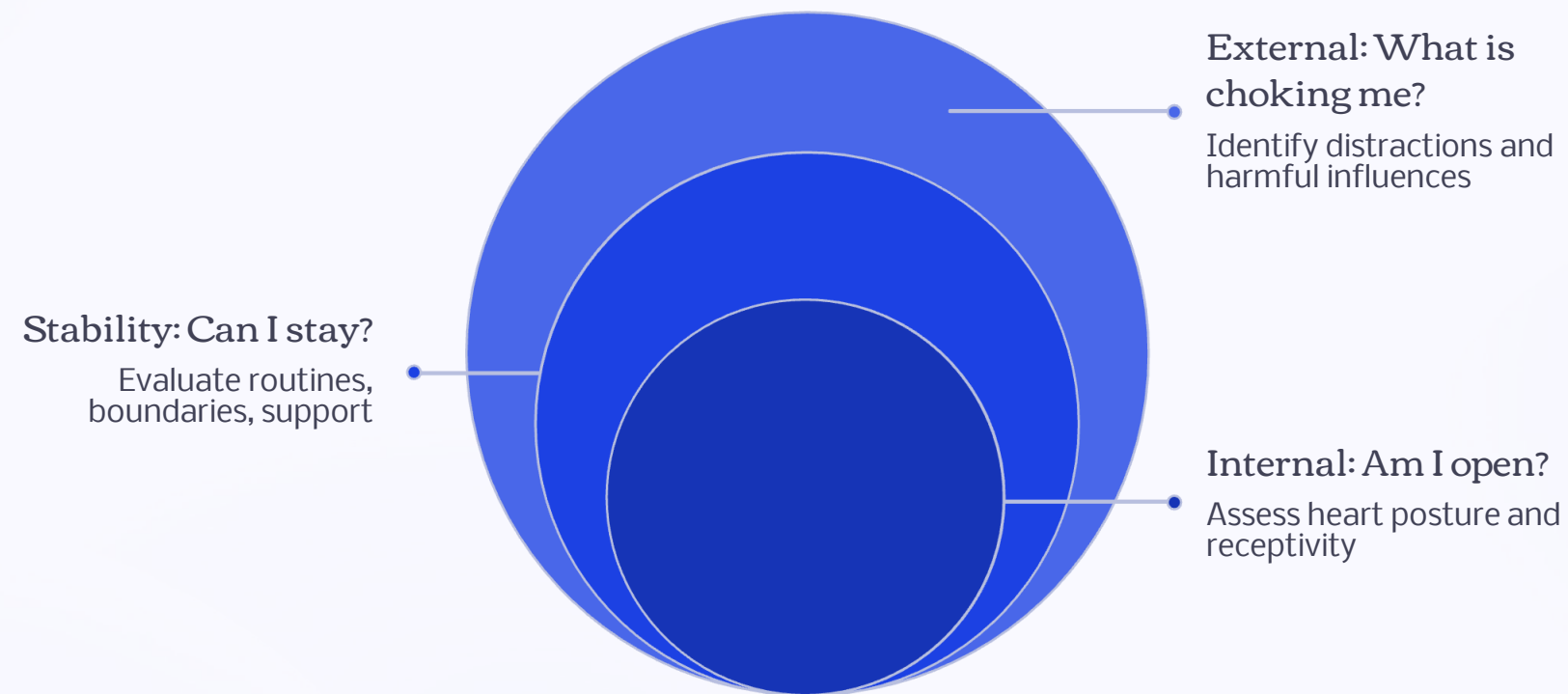
Safe environments

produce fruit

Transition to Discussion

Where is **safety** missing in your life?

The parable of the sower isn't just a story about evangelism. It's a **mirror**. It invites us to look honestly at the conditions of our own lives and ask: where is growth being blocked because safety is missing?



 DISCUSSION

Discussion Slides

With Scripture Tone Support

The following questions are designed to create space for honest, safe conversation. Use them to reflect personally or share with your group.

Instructions



Share Honestly

This is a space for truth. You don't have to have it all together.



No Fixing

We are not here to solve each other's problems. We are here to witness them.



No Judgment

What is shared here stays here. We receive, we don't critique.



You Can Pass

Participation is always voluntary. Safety means you always have a choice.

QUESTION 1 – INTERNAL

Where in my life do I not feel
safe enough to **open**?

QUESTION 2 – STABILITY

Where am I not safe enough
to *stay*?

QUESTION 3 – EXTERNAL

What is **choking** what God
planted in me?

PROVERBS 3:23 - 24 (NLT)

"You can go without fear... you will lie down and sleep soundly."

Reflection Scripture

Tone

God's desire is safety, not survival mode.

He is not calling you to white-knuckle your way through life. He is calling you to rest in His covering.

FINAL REFLECTION

What is **ONE** adjustment
I need to make this week to
create a **safer environment** for
growth?

You don't need a better seed.

You need a **safer**
environment.