



Good Soil

Discussion Guide | August 2nd, 2020

Before you begin, please read Matthew 13:1-23

1. Share any experience you have with gardening (maybe at some point in your past, or whether it's a current hobby). Do you enjoy gardening? Why or why not?
2. How does the quality of the soil affect the fruit a garden produces?
3. In Matthew 13:1-23, Jesus shares one of His most well-known parables. In your own words, briefly summarize what Jesus says in 3-4 sentences. What point is Jesus trying to make?
4. Look closely at Matthew 13:13-15. What Jesus is saying here is that sometimes our ability to hear (or inability to hear) is affected more by the condition of our hearts than our physical ears. How can the condition of our hearts make us more or less receptive to hearing from God?
5. Circle or underline the word "hear" every time you see it in verses 18-23. What insights can you draw from how often this word occurs in the parable?
6. What are some of the many ways we can hear from God's Word (the Bible) today? What benefits does this offer? Do you think there can be dangers that accompany this sort of access to God's Word? Explain.
7. The issue in this parable is not lack of hearing; the issue is response. Why is responding well to truth from God's Word so important? (Want to dig in a little further? Check out James 1:22-25.)
8. Look at each of the three "negative responses" to hearing the word of God in Matthew 13:18-22. What might this look like today? What thoughts are going through your head or what questions do you have as you read about these negative responses?
9. Now look at the positive response to hearing God's Word that we read about in Matthew 13:23. What do you think it looks like for the truth of God's Word to "produce a crop" in you and through you? Work together to develop a list of 6-8 ways God's Word can transform you.
10. How can you cultivate a heart that is "good soil"? What practically does this look like in your life this week?