



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 1 - APRIL 20 & 23

LEADER INFO:

PLEASE TAKE ATTENDANCE EACH WEEK. You should be receiving an email reminder at the time of your group. If you are not please email disciplegroups@coe22.com.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Baptism Classes** – sign up at coe22.com/baptism. Classes will be available after every service at all campuses beginning May 4 through June 4.
- **Serve at Beach Baptism** – come celebrate life change on June 11 at Hanna Park. We would love for you to come serve as a disciple group. Sign up at coe22.com/baptism.
- **We're Hiring** – Full-time ministry is more than a job; it's a calling. If you or someone you know feels called to join our team, we're currently looking for a Child-care positions, HR Manager, and a Junior Accountant. Check out the coe22.com/staffing page for more information.
- **Global Missions Info Night** – How will you love your global neighbor in 2017? Come learn where we're headed and what role you can play in Global Missions Monday, May 8 at 6:30pm at all of our campuses.

TEXTS: MATTHEW 13:1-23, 1 PETER 1:22-25

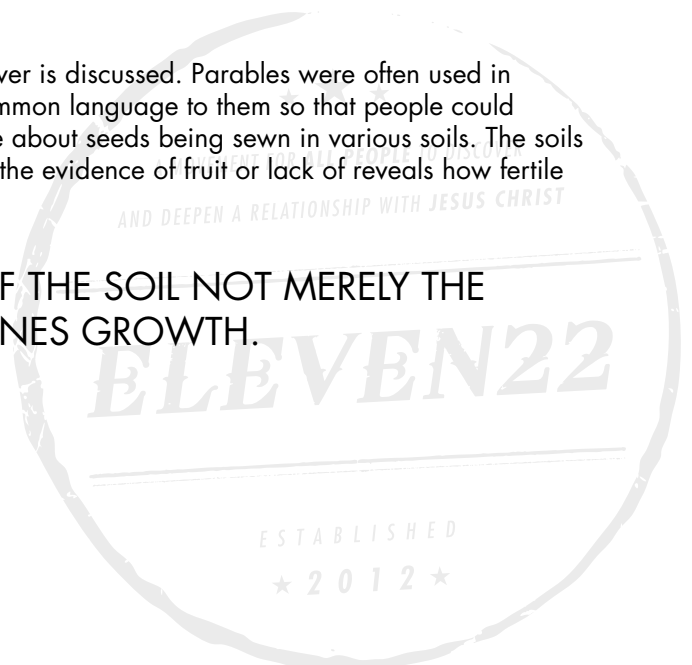
THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

In week 1 of the Storyteller series the parable of the sower is discussed. Parables were often used in teaching because it took heavenly concepts and put common language to them so that people could understand them. In Matthew 13 Jesus shares a parable about seeds being sown in various soils. The soils represent the condition of the hearts of the hearers and the evidence of fruit or lack of reveals how fertile that soil is.

THE POINT: IT IS THE CONDITION OF THE SOIL NOT MERELY THE DELIVERY OF THE SEED THAT DETERMINES GROWTH.

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read Matthew 13:1-23 out loud.



In most Bibles this parable is titled "The Parable of the Sower" but what is interesting is that this parable focuses mainly on the seeds and not the person planting the seeds. In the parable when the sower throws out the seeds the focus of the text quickly shifts to the growth of the seeds or lack thereof. Each seed's outcome is based on the condition of the soil it is in.

1. What does the seed represent?

(The word of God/the Gospel – verse 19 and Luke 8:11)

2. What are the four places the seeds fell on and what do they represent?

(The path, rocky ground, among thorns, good soil- Review vs 18-23)

The different soils receive the seeds in different ways. In verse 9 when Jesus says "He who has ears to hear, let him hear," He is summarizing the parable and giving a command to pursue the understanding of it. As we pursue God and His Word our intimacy with Him produces deeper understanding of His mysteries.

3. What do you do to prepare your heart to receive the Word of God on a daily basis?

(Ask God to help you understand His Word through the Holy Spirit, remove distractions when you read His Word)

4. What fruit do you see in your life as a result of hearing and understanding the Word of God? Where is this fruit lacking?

(Have your affections for the Lord grown? Has your identity been further pressed in as a child of God? Has your obedience to God increased?)

Have someone read 1 Peter 1:22-25 out loud.

Unlike the physical seed of this world, the imperishable seed (the Word of God) is eternal and remains forever. The good news that was preached to us must first be heard, then held onto, and then allowed to purify our souls as we remain obedient to its truth.

5. What does the imperishable seed of God's Word allow us to do?

(v22: Love earnestly with a pure heart)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP



- CULTIVATE MINISTRY
- PUT DOWN ROOTS
- PLANT THE GOSPEL
- SOW GOSPEL SEED

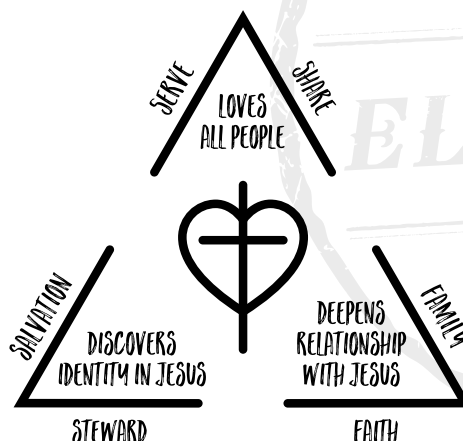


BEFORE ALL THINGS

Check out the Discipleship Journey tool to refresh yourself on the different areas of discipleship. Where are you on the journey?

You can check out the entire tool at coe22.com/discipleshipjourney

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



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A MOVEMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO DISCOVER
AND DEEPEN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST