

Parable of the Sower

What is a parable?

Why did Jesus speak to the people using parables?

What is the meaning of the parable of the Sower and the seeds?

How is a way you could you explain this parable in your own way?

Matthew 13:1-23

- *Why do you think Jesus often taught by the sea?
- *Who was Jesus' audience in this passage?
- *Is parables an effective teaching method? Why or why not?
- *Was parables used in the old Testament?
- *Do we use this teaching method today?
- *How can we interpret parables?
- *What if you didn't have the interpretation of this parable. Could you understand it?
- *Why did Jesus end His parable saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear?"
- *Why in this case did He give the interpretation to only this smaller group of people and not the larger group?
- *Why was this group privileged to understand the mystery of the kingdom of God? Why were outsiders not blessed in this way?
- *How should we respond since this mystery is also revealed to us?
- *What does verse 12 mean? Why?
- *Where is verse 14 found?
- *Why was it important to understand this parable if they were to understand other parables of the kingdom?
- *What are the key lessons we can get from this parable?
- *Where are you in this parable?
- *What should you do based on what you have learned in this parable?
- *What will you do to bear fruit?
- *What will you do to become a more faithful Sower?

Ephesians 4:18-19

- *What do these verses tell us about a hard heart?
- *What does it meant to lose sensitivity from a hard heart?
- *What does it mean to give yourself over to sensuality?
- *How do you know is your heart is hard?

James 2:14-17

- *Is faith without works of any use?
- *What is your reaction when people need help?
- *What is the main point of verses 15-16?
- *What does living faith look like?
- *What kind of works might accompany living faith?
- *What does dead faith look like? Is dead faith a real faith?
- *What warning should we take from this?
- *How can one show his faith without works? Is it possible?

Matthew 7:15-20

- *What is a false prophet? Just a person who makes false predictions?
- *Why does Jesus use the term “sheep’s clothing?” How would people view a sheep? A wolf?
- *What do people do when they see a sheep coming? How about a wolf?
- *Would a false teacher be able to fake good actions?
- *What might the motivation of a false teacher be?
- *In this passage, what does “good tree” mean?
- *How about “good fruit?” Bad fruit? Bad tree?
- *Why does Jesus say a bad tree cannot bear good fruit?
- *Can’t an unbeliever do some good deeds?
- *Does the fruit make a tree good or vice-versa? Why is this distinction important?
- *Do all the good trees bear the same amount of good fruit?
- *How could you bear good fruit (have good roots and drink more water)?

Matthew 6:31-34

What other things do people worry about today besides clothing and money?

What are some things which you worry about?

What should we do instead of worrying?

What does it mean to seek first His kingdom? How can we do this?

Each person spend several minutes writing down one or more specific examples of how to seek first His kingdom. Then share with the group.

What principle can we learn from verse 34?

Should we care about or plan about tomorrow?

What is the difference between planning and worrying?