

# Growth Group Curriculum

## WINTER SEMESTER 2021

Mark Week 10 ch. 3 vv. 1 - 20

For information on Growth Groups email [info@cbclife.org](mailto:info@cbclife.org)

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### REVIEW

1. Was there anything from this past Sunday's message that challenged or confused you?
2. Can you think of one thing from Sunday's sermon that you are likely to remember two weeks from now?

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. On Sunday we learned that the first three types of soil found in Mark 4 are representative of the various groups we see in the first chapters of Mark's Gospel. Which of the four soils do you identify with now? Why?
  - a. Which of the four soils have you identified more with in the past? Why?

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## DIGGING DEEPER

### Read Mark 3:20-35

This is the first place in the book of Mark where we meet Jesus' teaching method of using "parables." Unlike the other gospels, Mark does not include long passages of Christ's teaching. Thus there are relatively few parables in Mark. The Greek word translated "parable" meant literally "to set one thing beside another"— to draw a comparison between two things and show an analogy. Thus parables begin, "this is like that." The parables of Jesus seek to teach us about the kingdom of God by comparing it with vivid and concrete situations in our world. Parables teach nearly endless new insights. If Jesus asks: "how is the church like a 'city on a hill'?" (Matthew 5:14) The answers are endless.

Parables invite deep meditation and reflection. It's helpful to again remind ourselves what Jesus means by "the kingdom of God." Many people think of a "kingdom" as the physical place which is ruled — for example when we hear of the "Kingdom of Gondor" we usually have to think of a definite geographical "realm." The Greek word *basilea* (kingdom) that Jesus uses refers more to the "ruling power" of the sovereign than to the "realm."<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Read 4:3-9 and 14-20.

a) What is the main point of this parable?

b) What else does it tell us about the kingdom of God?

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<sup>1</sup> Redeemer Presbyterian Church 2005

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**c) What does it tell us about the Christian life?**

**2. What are the various ways Jesus shows us by which we can mis-hear the word of the kingdom?**

**3. In verses 10-12, who are the two groups of people Jesus is talking about? What characterizes each group? What is the “secret of the kingdom?”**

**4. As we have seen in Mark Jesus has already attracted a good deal of negative attention. He has been challenged by the authorities about forgiving sins, his attitude toward the sabbath and feasting with sinners. His family has said he is out of his mind and the religious leaders have said he is possessed by the devil. As we look at Mark 4:11-12 in this context, why might Jesus not want some listeners to understand what he is saying?**

**5. How might the implications of Jesus' parable in Mark 4 cause you to share your faith differently?**

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## Prayer Requests:

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