

## PARABLES: ORDINARY STORIES WITH EXTRAORDINARY MEANINGS

Mark 4:1-34

Memorize God’s Word for the week: Mark 4:24b-25.

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

### DAY 1: MARK 4:1-12—THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

1. Using a dictionary, define *parable*; it may be helpful to also look up *allegory*.

2. Fill in the chart below from verses 3-8.

Where the Seed Fell	What Happened to It
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	

### DAYS 2 & 3: MARK 4:13-20—JESUS’ EXPLANATION

3. Who or what is
  - a. the sower?
  - b. the seed?
  - c. the soil?
  
4. How does Jesus describe what happens to these “seeds”?
  - a. Seeds along the path
  - b. Seeds in rocky ground
  - c. Seeds among thorns
  - d. Seeds in good soil

5. Give examples of how people today fall into these categories.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is Jesus' message for *you* through this parable?

**DAY 4: MARK 4:26-32—THE PARABLES OF THE SEEDS**

7. What do you learn about God's kingdom from the parable of the mustard seed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What do the following verses teach about this kingdom?
  - a. John 3:3
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. John 18:36a
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Acts 14:21-22
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. James 2:5

**DAY 5: MARK 4:21-25, 33-34—HEARING AND LISTENING**

9. What do you think the lamplight represents?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How do ungodly people respond to God's light—the truth He reveals to them? (See Romans 1:18-19, 28).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Why is it so important to "*pay attention to what you hear*" (Mark 4:24), according to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What steps could you take to improve your spiritual listening skills?

**DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS**

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**APPLY** what you have learned. In these parables, Jesus depicts different people's responses to spiritual truth. Some ignore it; some receive it joyfully, but then lose interest; some allow it to be choked out by other things. Yet some allow it to be planted in their hearts, where it yields a bounty of fruit. Think about something significant God has revealed to you lately. It might through this study, a sermon, your quiet time, or a comment from a Christian friend. Write down several steps you might take to make sure that truth takes root and bears fruit in your life.