



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

8. In what area of your life do you need to start listening to God more?

9. What is one biblical truth that you want to cultivate in your life each day this week? In the coming year?

10. What kinds of things keep people today from being “good soil?” Which of these things is a struggle for you?

Remember to pray for the empty chair and then...who can we invite to be a part of our group next week? Will you?



December 28, 2008

HEARING CHECK

MARK 4:1-20

With so many of our members and Life Group leaders traveling this week for Christmas, we've invited our teens to join their parents group today. Things will be back to normal next week. Remember to pray for our many traveling members this week.



OPEN:
(2-3 minutes)

1. Where were you living when you were 7 years old? What was your yard like?

2. When it comes to growing plants today, how successful are you?

- I have a “green thumb”
- I go with plastic plants—they thrive in my neglect!
- My house is where plants go to die.
- I never plant anything.





Read Mark 1:1-20

3. In one concise statement, what is Jesus saying is the key to living a productive life?

4. Verse 13 indicates that even the disciples didn't understand this parable. In verse 9-13, what is Jesus saying about people being open to hear, understand and accept his word?

5. In Jesus' interpretation of the parable (v. 14-20), he shows the disciples that each soil represents a level of receptivity that people have to his message. What do each of the four soils represent in terms of how the Word is received?

- The path:
- Rocky soil:
- Thorns:
- Good ground:

6. Do you think that a person is one kind of "soil" throughout his or her life? Explain.

7. What modern analogy would you use to explain this parable to city kids who have never seen a farm?



Word Study:

Parables are comparisons that draw upon common experience in order to teach about the realities of God's Kingdom.