

# "The Parable of the Soils" Small Group Study Guide

## Opening Question

- If you were to compare your spiritual life to a type of landscape or terrain (desert, mountain, forest, beach, etc.), what would it be right now and why? (Have fun with this!)

## General Observation

- In Luke 8, Jesus uses an agricultural metaphor about different types of soil to describe how people respond to God's Word. What stands out to you most about this parable?
- Pastor Kris mentioned that perseverance proves profession. What does this statement mean to you?
- What did you find most challenging or encouraging about the parable of the soils?

## Understanding the Message

- In Luke 8:4-15, Jesus describes four different types of soil. What are they, and what does each type represent according to Jesus's own explanation?
- Pastor Kris said, "Repeated exposure to the truth without a response leads to spiritual hardness." How does this relate to the first soil (the path) in the parable?
- According to the sermon, what causes the second soil (rocky ground) to wither? How does this connect to the idea of testing in our spiritual lives?
- The third soil (thorny ground) is described as the "suburban heart" in the sermon. What three specific things does Luke 8:14 mention that choke out spiritual growth?
- Why do you think Jesus concludes this parable by emphasizing "He who has ears, let him hear"? What is significant about this phrase that appears 20 times in the New Testament?

## Personal Application

- Which of the four soils do you most identify with in your current season of life? Why?
- Pastor Kris asked, "What is the last thing that God has asked you to do that you responded to?" How would you answer this question?
- The sermon mentions that "tests are personal" and that God has a "custom plan" for each of us. What spiritual tests have you faced recently, and what have you learned from them?

- In what ways might the "cares, riches, and pleasures of life" be choking out spiritual growth in your life?
- The pastor said, "If the devil can't make you bad, he'll make you busy." How have you experienced this in your own life?

## Action Steps

- This week, set aside 15 minutes each day to read Scripture and respond to it in some tangible way (prayer, journaling, action).
- Identify one "thorn" in your life (worry, wealth pursuit, or pleasure) that might be choking your spiritual growth. Make a specific plan to address it this week.
- Find someone in your life who demonstrates the "good soil" qualities. Reach out to them and ask about their spiritual habits and disciplines.
- Consider your weekly schedule and identify where you might be prioritizing lesser activities over spiritual growth. Make one adjustment this week.
- Share with someone in the group one area where you need prayer for perseverance in your faith journey.

## Sample Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word that continues to challenge and change us. We confess that our hearts are sometimes hardened, shallow, or crowded with distractions. Please cultivate in us hearts of good soil that receive Your Word deeply and produce abundant fruit. Help us to persevere through testing and trials, knowing that these are opportunities for growth. Give us wisdom to recognize the thorns of worry, wealth, and worldly pleasures that threaten to choke out our spiritual vitality. May we not just hear Your Word but respond to it with obedience. Lord, we want to be people who endure to the end, whose perseverance proves our profession. Make us receptive to Your Spirit this week as we seek to put Your Word into practice. In Jesus' name, Amen.