



LIFEGROUPS STUDY GUIDE

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

SERIES:

Mark

MESSAGE TITLE:

Jesus is the Revealer of
God's Kingdom

MESSAGE DATE:

03/23/2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY:

In today's message, Pastor Matt Ousdahl explores the purpose of Jesus' parables in Mark 4 and how they reveal truths about the Kingdom of God. He emphasizes that Jesus teaches in parables to ensure that those eager to understand God's message will grasp its meaning, while those who are closed to it will miss out. The parables illustrate that God's Kingdom is accessible to those with genuine faith, is meant to be seen, grows through our obedience, and ultimately flourishes beyond our expectations. Pastor Matt encourages listeners to soften their hearts, share their faith boldly, and actively participate in the movement of the Church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1.) Why do you think Jesus chose to teach in parables, and what do you think is the significance of those parables for both believers and non-believers?

Pastor Matt explained that Jesus used parables to reveal truths about God's kingdom, helping some people understand while keeping others in the dark.

Can you think of a time when a story or example helped you understand something better? How might you use similar stories when sharing your faith with others?

2.) In the Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed, what do the different types of soil represent, and what does this mean for our faith?

Pastor Matt described the seeds that fell on different types of soil as representing the various reactions people have to faith, like deception, distraction, and genuine faith.

Which type of soil do you feel best represents your current faith journey, and what steps can you take to ensure your faith is more like the good soil?

3.) What does it mean that God's kingdom is made to be seen, as mentioned in the Parable of the Lamp?

Pastor Matt highlighted that Jesus wants everyone to see God's kingdom, emphasizing that individuals often miss it due to their closed hearts.

How can you make sure you are actively looking for signs of God's kingdom in your everyday life, and how might that change your perspective?



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4.) Pastor Matt mentioned that God's kingdom grows through obedience but that only God brings increase. What does this reveal about our roles as Christians?

| This was illustrated through the Parable of the Growing Seed, showing that while we scatter seeds of faith, it's ultimately God who causes them to grow.

| *In what ways can you be obedient in sharing your faith, and how can you remind yourself to trust God for the outcomes?*

5.) Reflecting on the Parable of the Mustard Seed, what can we learn about the potential growth of God's kingdom from small beginnings?

| Pastor Matt emphasized that God's kingdom starts small, like a mustard seed, but can grow into something much larger than expected.

| *Can you think of a small effort or choice you've made in your life that led to significant growth or change? How can you apply this idea to your faith journey?*