

## GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SERMON SERIES: "THE GOSPEL OF MARK"

SERMON TITLE: "GOOD RECEPTION"

DATE PREACHED: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 2018

PREACHER: CODY BALCH



### WARM UP QUESTIONS:

- 🗨️ On a scale from 1-10 (with 10 being the most receptive), how receptive would you say your heart is to the word and will of God? {people don't have to answer out loud if they don't want, but get them to at least identify it in their minds}
- 🗨️ If physical Jesus showed up to you and told you that He would like to come and stay at your house tomorrow and over night: **A)** Would you let Him into your house? **B)** What would your mindset be to get it ready for His stay?
- 🗨️ Can you think of anything special/valuable in your life that you would go out of your way to take care of? (examples: wedding ring, kids, car, computer/phone)

### SERMON IN A SENTENCE: (does statement this ring true?)

"Your heart is like a garden; it is as receptive to the Word of God as it (your heart) is tended to."

Have one person read the first section (**Mark 4:1-8**) & another person read the second section (**Mark 4:13-20**) aloud to the group:

**Mark 4:1-8** — "1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

**Mark 4:13-20** “**13** Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? **14** The farmer sows the word.

**15** Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

**16** Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. **17** But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **18** Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; **19** but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. **20** Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

🗨️ What strikes you as most interesting or noteworthy concerning this parable of Jesus? (examples: the farmer sowed his seed indiscriminately; the details of the different types of soils)

🗨️ Which soil type resonate most in your heart and life, including your past and where you’ve been?

🗨️ When hearing Jesus talk about the 4th, good soil that produced a crop 30, 60, or 100 times what was sown, how does that excite your heart to want to see that kind of fruitfulness in your own life, and does that kind of potential fruitfulness motivate you to better tend to your heart?

☀️ What are some things that will help make the soil of your heart more fertile and receptive to the Word of God?

❖ Close in prayer, and pray for God to give:

1. Us a more receptive heart to the word and will of God, and a desire to work on the things that inhibit that receptivity.

2. Others around us a more receptive heart toward the word and will of God.

3. Us a heart to sow the word of God (Good News of Jesus) more indiscriminately to anyone around us, regardless of how we “think” they will respond.

**MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KIDS LESSON:**

- Play a game that tests who are the best listeners. (example games: Red Light/Green Light; Simon Says, Telephone) Liken these games to how good/attentive listeners we should be towards the word and will of God.
- Ask them where a seed is supposed to be planted. On the sidewalk? On the rocks? In the thorns? Or in the good garden soil?
- Liken the good soil to a good “receptive” heart and ask them if they think their heart is like the good soil, or like the path/rocks/thorns.
- Ask them if they have ever told someone else they know about who Jesus is and what He did for us on the cross.
- I’d encourage a worship time if possible (through youtube works great).
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they’d like to say a prayer for the group.