

**Transition:**

Jesus spent much of His time speaking in parables – a parable being a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. The Bible records 25 of Jesus' parables and they cover a wide range of topics like judgment, heaven, hell, forgiveness and faith. Why Jesus chose to speak in parables instead of “speaking plainly” is another matter. But we are fortunate with this story that Jesus privately interprets the Parable of the Sower to His disciples – so there is no confusion over the meaning.

**Tell the story:**

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

**Rebuild the story:**

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think Jesus means by “he who has ears to hear...?”
2. Why does Jesus quote Isaiah to explain why He speaks in parables?
3. Would you consider yourself “good soil” or one of the other kinds?

**Fundamental:**

Evangelism – Evangelism is the proclaiming of good news, specifically the good news of Jesus Christ. We must make people understand that they refuse to bow before this heavenly Emperor at the peril of their immortal souls, that they will know only eternal misery if they rebel against Him, and that they will know this misery at His hand! To evangelize, then, is to proclaim the gospel faithfully – that is, to proclaim the whole truth about Jesus Christ, both as Savior and Lord. And the declared aim of true evangelism is to bring those who hear the gospel to repentance toward God and to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by which faith they are justified freely by the grace of God.

1. What role does the sower seem to play in the parable? In accordance with other Scripture, whose responsibility is it to “sow?” (Matt 10:7-8; 2 Tim 4:1-2)
2. Is there a difference between teaching and preaching? (Luke 20:1; Acts 5:42; 1 Tim 5:17)
3. What do you think it means to “bear fruit?” (1 Cor 3:6-8)

**Homework/Challenge:**

1. Seek opportunities to evangelize in your life – workplace, grocery store, gym, etc.
2. Please read Matthew 14 in preparation for next week.

**Discipleship Tip:**

Most people are nervous and afraid to proclaim the gospel publicly. Jesus says He will be ashamed of us if we are ashamed of Him. Remind them that, realistically, if they were at the grocery store and there were 300 people there – 295 are hurting and broken. Most may be adequate at looking like they have it all together, but they need Jesus.

**Prayer:**

Like Paul said in Ephesians 6:19 “...pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.”

**Extras:**

*The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever