

Connection

What has been one AMAZING highlight from the summer for you?

Content The Purpose of the Church

1. Read Mark 4:1-2a and Mark 4:24. When we read the Word, we need to pay attention and listen closely, and we will see our heart and soul enriched. How can you pay close attention when reading Scripture?

2. Mark 4:25 says, "To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."

Pulling away from God leads to poor decision making. We stop receiving life transformation and we can fall into a really dark place. How has having God in your life helped you through trials?

3. Read Mark 4:21. Jesus is the light of the world. If we have Jesus inside us, we are letting His light shine. As such, we shouldn't allow our light to be hidden or put it "under a basket" but rather we need to live a life that allows Jesus' light to shine for the benefit of others.

This can be called "Kingdom work." What are some examples of Kingdom work? And why is it so important to our walk as Christians?

4. Read Mark 4:26-27. Jesus reminds us that we are seed planters. What is the significance of this parable and the idea that we are planting seeds for God's Kingdom?

5. Read Mark 4:28. Another aspect of planting seeds is that it takes time for them to grow and mature, time that you aren't in control of, and time that isn't the same for every seed. First a single leaf blade will surface before the whole crop emerges. And we might not even see it.

What "leaf blades" have you seen, that show what God is doing in the life of someone you know?

6. Read Mark 4:30-32. As tree branches provide resting places for birds, the church provides resting places for people. Here they can experience the peace Jesus offers. Think of a time when you experienced rest and peace because of the community of believers around you. Describe this.

Commitment

7. The power of God in you, through the Holy Spirit, allows you to be a seed planter, leading to limitless possibilities for the growth of God's Kingdom. In which relationships will you seek to plant seeds this week? List the names that come to mind and then pray over the list.

Challenge Assignment:

Read over Mark 4 this week and put to memory one verse that speaks to you.