

More KOG Insights

Case For Christ part, (Study of Mark's Gospel) part 13
January 23rd, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

Why speak in parables?

(Mark 3:6-8; 4:9-12, 23-25, 33-34, Matthew 13:12-13)

- to increase C ... & C ...
- to decrease C ...

A Few More Thoughts from the First (Mk 4:1-20)

- on being a F ... (Mk 4:13)
- on being F ... (Mk 4:14, 20)

Lessons from a Lamp (Mk 4:21-25)

- Jesus is ...
(John 1:9-12, John 8:12)
- God calls us to ...
(1 John 1:5-7, John 3:19, James 5:16)

Lessons from a Growing Seed (Mk 4:26-29)

- Growth is ...
- God is ... even when ...
(Matthew 16:18, Philippians 1:6)

Lessons from a Mustard Seed (Mk 4:30-32)

- The Easter impact is ...
(Philippians 2:8-11)
- God uses small things for ...
(2 Corinthians 12:9, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our second week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few general fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In three of the four parables we looked at last Sunday, Jesus used farming as the teaching point. In keeping with this agricultural theme, what would you say is your favorite plant, flower or tree?

One of the reasons Jesus used parables when he taught was to raise curiosity to prompt the crowd to reflect more and seek further clarity.

Speaking of curiosity, if you had the time, what are you curious about that you would like to learn more about? Or become better at? Or maybe even take a class on?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 4:10-13, 21-34)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. One of the truths brought up last Sunday was that we can influence other people but we have no control over the type of soil they are or the fruit that will ultimately be produced in their life. Even though we are not able to determine the ultimate outcome of another person's life, we can be a positive influence for those around us.

In the following verses, what actions do you find that help us influence others in a positive way?

1 Peter 2:11-17, Mark 2:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Given your current situation, which of these actions is most challenging for you to do?

2. From the farming stories Jesus told in Mark 4, one lesson we can be reminded of is that a fast start doesn't guarantee a strong finish. The Old Testament king name Uzziah is a sobering example of someone who crashed and burned after a promising start. Let's read his story (2 Chronicles 26:1-22) and reflect some together.

What stands out to you about Uzziah's life in the first 15 verses of this chapter?

In verse 16, we read about Uzziah's downfall. What thoughts could you imagine might have gone through his mind that contributed to his downfall?

Can you think of some reasons that success can possibly lead us away from God?

3. How can reading and reflecting on Isaiah 57:15 and Isaiah 66:1-2 help a person avoid falling prey to pride?

4. The last two weeks, we heard that the Bible makes it clear that although we can't control other people's mindset, attitudes or choices, we are responsible for the condition of our own hearts.

As most of 2022 is still ahead of us, how could the following passages help us continue to cultivate a heart this year that is responsive to God and His Word?

Ephesians 4:1-3, Psalm 1:1-3, Luke 18:9-14

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?