

## More KOG Insights, pt 2

Case For Christ part, (Study of Mark's Gospel) part 14  
January 30th, 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 Curiosity & Clarity
- to decrease Conflict

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

- on being a Framework (Mk 4:13)
- on being Faithful (Mk 4:14, 20)

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

- Jesus is the light of the world  
(John 1:9-12, John 8:12)
- God calls us to walk in the light  
(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 third 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 fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In the parable of the "growing seeding" found in Mark 4:26-29, the wheat grew when the farmer was sleeping.

Was there ever a time when you woke up and you were surprised by what you woke up to? Or ... you took a trip or went to work and came home to a surprise?

In the last parable that we read and reflected on last Sunday from Mark 4:30-32, a small seed grew to be a huge bush.

Are there any examples in your life where something started out small, but grew to become something larger than you had expected?

Last Sunday was also a "missions morning" where we heard some stories from south of the border.

What encouraged you about what you heard from our guests from the ministry of Centro Shalom?

### **Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:**

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 4:26-32)

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. Last Sunday, from the parable of the growing seed in Mark 4:26-29, we reflected on how spiritual growth is God's work. At the time of our salvation, God begins His work in us. We are made alive in Christ (read 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Then, through an ongoing lifelong process, God progressively finishes and completes His work in us. Paul referred to this maturing process (called sanctification). (read Philippians 1:6)

Although we are encouraged from the Bible to put up some hedges and build in some helpful habits in our lives, it is the Holy Spirit that actually produces the growth we desire.

What insights regarding our spiritual maturity can we learn or be reminded of from the following verses:

Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 2:13, Colossians 3:8-10,  
1 Corinthians 6:11, 2 Corinthians 12:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:23,  
2 Thessalonians 2:13,, Hebrews 13:20-21, Zechariah 4:6

2. Peter, who was one of Jesus' early disciples, is a good example of the insights we reflected on from both parables from last Sunday.

From the 'growing seed parable' (Mark 4:26-29), we learned that it is God who grows us to become more and more like Jesus Christ and empower us to do His will.

From the last parable about the Mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32) we learned how God uses people with slow starts to accomplish great things.

Peter is a good example of how God matures and empowers those who rely on him and even though he had a slow start, God was able to eventually accomplish great things through him.

Even after Peter spent three years with Jesus he still struggled with fear, impulsivity and doubt. You might say he had a slow start. While Jesus was arrested and crucified, Peter denied knowing Jesus (Mark 14:66-72) and was driven by fear and was ready to return to his old job ... fishing for fish.

After Jesus' resurrection and giving Peter an invitation to return to ministry, Peter was willing to pursue God's calling on his life to be a 'fisher of men'. More than this encouragement from Jesus, Jesus knew Peter and the rest of His followers would need the filling of the Holy Spirit to mature and minister as God intended.

When Jesus was about to ascend to heaven, they already knew what Jesus was calling them to do (see Matthew 28:16-20). After this calling, what did Jesus ask Peter and the rest of the disciples to wait for before pursuing their calling? (Acts 1:6-8)

Who Jesus asked the disciples to wait for, showed up in Acts 2. After Peter was empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), Peter was a changed man.

Further in Acts 2, the same Peter who denied even knowing Jesus, now is boldly identifying with Jesus and helping others understand what Jesus did for them.

Let's read how it starts ... (Acts 2:14-15) and how it ends (Acts 2:36-41)

How can we summarize the difference in Peter, before and after he was empowered by the Holy Spirit?

In Peter's life and in our lives, God desires and is able to mature us and empower us to accomplish more than we can possibly imagine.

For some encouragement, let's read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and Ephesians 3:20.

What should we recognize and reflect on when we are tempted to doubt whether or not we will ever mature as a Christ follower?

What should we recognize and reflect on when we are tempted to believe that we are so inadequate to be used by God to make a positive impact in our world?

## **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?