

Small Group Discussion Guide

MARK 4:26-34

“Seedology”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 9/28/25

Background

This week we have two connected parables. First, they are both about seeds. Secondly, they both describe the Kingdom of God. The first parable (vs.26-29) is unique to Mark's Gospel. Jesus compared the kingdom to a farmer's crop that He was planting and over time God would grow.¹ The next parable compares the Kingdom to a mustard seed. Jesus by telling the story—and Mark by recording it—encouraged disciples who were experiencing rejection of their message and frustration at their lack of understanding of God's mysterious purposes that God's kingdom would surely come.²

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker

1. What is something in your life that started small but grew big, even more than you expected? (Examples: A hobby turned passion or career, a friendship that became life-changing, a small act of kindness that had ripple effects)

Observation

1. Read both parables in Mark 4:26-32. What are the repeating words or phrases?
2. Now focus on the first parable in vs.26-29. Describe all that the passage tells us about the farmer.
3. Follow the seed. What all happens after the seed is scattered?

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, *Mark*, Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Tyndale House Publishers, 2018), 119.

² James A. Brooks, *Mark*, vol. 23, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 85.

4. Read the second parable in Mark 4:30-32. How is it different than the previous parable in vs.26-29? How is it the same?
5. Summarize each parable in your own words. Have several members of your group try it.

Interpretation

6. Parables are short, symbolic stories using everyday imagery to teach spiritual truth, often focusing on one main idea. What do you see as the main idea in each parable?
7. What do we learn about the Kingdom of God from each of these parables?
8. Read Mark 4:33-34. These verses give more explanation as to why Jesus spoke in parables. Jesus spoke parables to two groups of people indicated here. Who were they and why did he only explain the parables to one of the groups?

Application

9. Those who farm for a living know too well how much of the growing process is out of their control. The parables in Mark 4:26-34 are not just about farming but are about the spiritual reality of the Kingdom of God. What is our role as believers in God's Kingdom plan?
10. The kingdom has come in one sense ... but it has not yet been established and recognized on earth. But do not lose heart. Someday in the future, Jesus will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords!³ How do *you* find encouragement in that wonderful truth?

³ Charles R. Swindoll, *Mark*, Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Tyndale House Publishers, 2018), 120.