



September 30-October 1, 2017  
Part 1: Parable of the Soils  
How To Hear God Speak

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## How To Hear God Speak

### The Story: Luke 8:4-15

The Farmer: God

The Seed: His Word

The Soil: \_\_\_\_\_

#### THE BIG IDEA:

The only one responsible for my \_\_\_\_\_ is me

To hear God speak I need to . . .

#### 1. Cultivate \_\_\_\_\_

" . . . some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it." Luke 8:5

"The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved." Luke 8:12

#### 2. Allocate \_\_\_\_\_

"Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow, but soon withered and died for lack of moisture." Luke 8:6 (LB)

"The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation." Luke 8:13

#### 3. Eliminate \_\_\_\_\_

"Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants." Luke 8:7

"The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life." Luke 8:14

#### 4. Cooperate \_\_\_\_\_

"And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest." Luke 8:15

#### Memory Verse

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."

James 1:22

**Acknowledgements:** Some of the sources used in the preparation of this series include material presented by Jamey Stuart, John MacArthur, Rene Schlaepfer, Lon Solomon, Timothy Keller, Rick Warren, Larry Osborne, Chris Brown and others.

#### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior for the first time
- Accept responsibility for my spiritual growth
- Memorize James 1:22
- Commit to attend, as much as possible, each weekend during the "Stories That Changed The World" series
- Get the most out of this series by attending my Life group.



Be sure and invite a friend, family member or co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!

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## Discussion Questions - Week #3

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "How to Hear God Speak," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

What impacted you the most from the message?

### GETTING STARTED

1. As a great teacher, Jesus often used parables to teach spiritual truths. Who was your favorite teacher and what was it about his or her teaching that caused them to stand out?

2. In the message this weekend Pastor Rick taught on the parable of the soils. Would you consider yourself to have a green thumb? Why or why not? Why do you think Jesus chose often chose agrarian stories to talk about spiritual things?

### DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read Mark 1:32-39. Why do you think Jesus chose this time to go off and pray?

Do you think there is something special about setting aside time early in the morning to hear God's voice?

What is your best time to hear God's voice? What is your biggest challenge hearing God's voice consistently?

What does consistent and sustaining distraction-free time with God look like in this stage of your life?

4. Read Proverbs 4:23. What do you think it means to guard your heart?

Do you think guarding your heart in our world is counter cultural? If so, how?

In the message this weekend, we learned one of the steps to spiritual growth is cultivating an open heart. What connection do you see between guarding your heart and cultivating an open heart?

Share an example where guarding your heart has led to spiritual growth?

Are there any things in your life currently from which you ought to guard your heart?

5. Read 2 Kings 5:1-14. Why do you think Naaman was angry?

Have you ever experienced God asking you to do something that didn't make sense?

How do you think this story would have concluded if Naaman's servants had not spoken up?

Do you have people in your life like Naaman's servants who can help you to hear God's word?

If so, who are they and how have they done so? If not, where do you think you could find those people?

### TAKING IT HOME

6. What change can you make this week to take greater responsibility for your spiritual growth?

7. How can the group be praying for you this week to hear, accept and obey God's word?

### PRAYER REQUESTS