

WEEK 3

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Some things are hard to understand – like chemistry, verb conjugations, the blockchain, or why your friend is mad at you. When we face a problem, situation, or idea we're struggling to understand, it always helps to know someone we trust can explain it to us. When Jesus was here on earth, he spent a lot of time helping his followers understand some pretty hard-to-understand ideas about God. One of the ways Jesus often made complicated ideas simpler was by explaining them through stories and metaphors, which we call parables. In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll explore four of the parables Jesus told his followers to explain four important truths about God. These parables help us see that **God's words are a firm foundation, in God's kingdom, everyone belongs, God's words invite a response**, and that **God's kingdom is always growing**.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

God's words invite a response.

BIBLE

Matthew 13:1-23; Psalm 119:105-112;
John 6:60-61 & 66

QUESTIONS

- What's the weirdest word you've ever heard?
- If we didn't have words, what's one way your week would have been way worse?
- What are some reasons people struggle to understand God's words? Can you relate to any of those reasons?
- What are some reasons people are hesitant to follow God's instructions? Can you relate to any of those reasons?
- Retell me Jesus' parable as though I've never heard it before. Then explain it to me!
- Jesus talked about four different kinds of soil – how many of them can you relate to? How?
- Do you think we have any control over which kind of soil we are? If so, how can we become more like the "good" soil Jesus talked about?
- Read John 6:60-61 & 66. When God's words leave us feeling confused or uncomfortable, what can we do (besides giving up on Jesus)?
- Are you hesitating to respond to any of God's words right now? If so, what's holding you back and how can we help?
- This week, what's one way you're going to respond to God's words in a new (or more consistent) way?



Share your habit stacks with each other! See if anyone has identified a habit stack that would be helpful to someone else in the group.