

FAITH IN

REAL LIFE

MS
MIDDLE
SCHOOLS
MINISTRY

Week 2
Faith + Distractions
3.13.22

LEADER PREP

MAIN POINT

Even in the midst of busyness and noise, I can keep my faith.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4: 1-20

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize that even if their life is busy or full of distractions, they can make God a priority

THINK ABOUT THIS

Your middle schoolers are probably at the beginning stages of learning how to prioritize all kind of things in their life. This is something that is hard for adults, but it is a muscle that grows stronger over time. Encourage and affirm your students for even realizing: hey, I can make things a priority! Share some tips on how you do this (for example, I make sure I wash the dishes after dinner before I let myself on Instagram or watch tv, etc.)

PRO TIP: Since today's Bible verse is longer, have multiple students read different sections of it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.
- What major distractions do you experience regularly? What keeps you from doing homework or chores?
- How busy are each of you on a daily basis?
- Legitimately, is that a good reason for not doing something that is important? Why or why not? *(The goal of this question is to get to the idea that people say they are too busy for God. We want to push back on this idea and lead them to the idea that we all have enough time, we just don't prioritize Him.)*

THE WORD

- READ Mark 4:1-20. Encourage students to think as they listen, which seed do I relate to?
- Who was Jesus speaking to? How does this parallel Hope and specifically, Hope MSM?
- Do you think that each 'seed' is represented here at Hope and in MSM? Possibly even this morning?
- Which seed do you relate to the most? Share a little about why.

APPLICATION

- Today, we focused a little bit on the seeds that got choked out by all the thorns. Do you ever feel like that?
- What can we do in the midst of busyness to keep our faith going?

PRAY

We are going to close in prayer.
Anyone have any prayer requests?

MARK 4:1-20

"Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. 2 He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

3 "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. 4 As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. 5 Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. 7 Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" 9 Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

10 Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant.

11 He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders, 12 so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

'When they see what I do,
they will learn nothing.

When they hear what I say,
they will not understand.

Otherwise, they will turn to me
and be forgiven.'"

13 Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? 14 The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. 15 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. 16 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 17 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. 18 The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, 19 but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. 20 And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

NOTES