

Membership Covenant

The 5 G's
Groups
Giving
Gifts
Grace
Growth

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 13:31-35

Message for the Week: Dying to Grow

Sunday, May 12

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Have you ever shaken a bottle of soda, offered it to a friend, and watched what happened? Why did it happen? How did your friend react?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 13:31-35](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What effect is the Kingdom of God having on your heart and life? How is it growing and working through your life?

What does it take...what do you need to do...to cultivate the Kingdom of God in your heart and life?

Is the Kingdom of God having such an effect in your life that it is also affecting those around you? Why or why not?

How are you going about sharing the Kingdom of God in your daily routines?

What sphere of life is God calling you to share the “seed” or “yeast” of the Kingdom of God that is in you?

What role does death play in growth?

Try It:

In this graduation season, identify where and how God is calling you to share the Kingdom of God.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, we commit cultivating our faith SO THAT we leave in our wake the seeds and the leaven of the Kingdom of God wherever we go. Give us the insight and the self-awareness we need to discipline ourselves to do the hard heart work so that we share the gospel wherever we go. AMEN

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Growth

I commit to deepen my faith in Jesus Christ through regular Scripture reading and prayer.

I commit to having and pursuing a personal rule of life (a plan for intentionally growing my relationship with Jesus Christ) and living it out in my community, my church, and His Kingdom.

Matthew 13:31-35

New International Version

13 ³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[a] of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables,

I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”^[b]

- a. [Matthew 13:33](#) Or about 27 kilograms
- b. [Matthew 13:35](#) Psalm 78:2

The Message

13 ³¹⁻³² Another story. “God’s kingdom is like an acorn that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge oak tree, and eagles build nests in it.”

³³ Another story. “God’s kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises.”

³⁴⁻³⁵ All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling afternoon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy:

I will open my mouth and tell stories;

I will bring out into the open

things hidden since the world’s first day.