

Cell Group Lesson:
The Seed

Ice Breaker: If when you get to Heaven, you can ask God one question about something that you've always wondered about, what would that question be?

Facilitator's Comments: During this lesson we will discuss and renew our love for the Word of God...let's read what Abraham Lincoln said about the Bible...

Read

Abraham Lincoln's Quote:

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

Question: What do you like best about this "best gift" - the Word of God?

Answer: Plan of Salvation, encouragement, answers to life issues and problems...

Facilitator's Comments: Let's read what Job had to say about the Word of God...

Read

Job 23:12 - I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. (NIV)

Question: What point do you believe Job was trying to make, by saying he treasured God's Word more than his daily bread?

Answer: That spiritual 'food' is more important than 'physical' food. That most people would do anything for daily bread, but the word of the Lord is more precious than that.

Facilitator's Comments: The 119th Psalm has several enlightening verses about the power of the Word of God in our lives, let's read three of these verses...

Read

Psalm 119:9 - How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. (NIV)

Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (KJV)

Psalm 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (KJV)

Question: How does the Word of God provide light for our lives and help us to "keep our way pure?"

Answer: We learn God's will through the Scripture. And the Bible's teachings will keep us on the right path during our lives, as we march towards Heaven.

Facilitator's Comments: Daniel Webster spoke once about the value of the Scripture.. the following are his comments..

Read

Daniel Webster Quote

"If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a

catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

Facilitator's Comments: How we react to the Word of God, says a lot about our current walk with God. Let's read about Mary's reaction to the word of the Lord, when she was told that she was going to give birth to the Messiah...

Read

Luke 1:34 - Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*"³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."³⁸ Then Mary said, "**Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her. (NKJV)

Question: How would you describe Mary's reaction to the Word from Heaven's Angel?

Answer: Although the words may have been stunning, her response showed that her attitude and spirit was to make herself available to the plan of the Lord and to willingly follow it.

Facilitator's Comments: Although we hear the Word of the Lord in various ways, preaching, Bible reading, cell group, etc...we can still be deceived...James 1:22 tells us how...let's read this verse:

Read

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (NIV)

Question: How can we be deceived, when we merely listen to the Word of God?

Answer: We can rationalize that certain parts of the Bible don't pertain to us and that we don't have to follow them.

Facilitator's Comments: The last verse leads us into the following issue. We often say that we *love* Jesus, but the Bible give us the true "I love the Lord" test. Let's read 1 John 2:5..

Read

1 John 2:5 - But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: (NIV)

Facilitator's Comments: Let's read about showing our love to the Lord in the following Commentary..

Read

1st Commentary: The Bible says plainly and powerfully, that when we obey His Word, God's love is complete in us. In terms of the Word of God, Love is more than just a feeling; Love is *action*. This is stated in John 14:15, when Jesus said "*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*" It's not enough to *say* you love God, you need to live in such a way that shows Him and others that you love Him, that's by obeying His commandments.

Facilitator's Comments: After we follow the gospel of the Lord and turn our lives over to Him, we still have to work on our hearts, to make sure that it remains "good" ground so that the Word of God will continue to enter our hearts and help us to grow in strength and knowledge of the Lord and in His desire for our lives... Now let's read the powerful parable about the sower and the seed...in Luke 8..

Read

Luke 8:4 - While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ¹¹"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those along **the path** are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³Those on **the rock** are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴The seed that fell **among thorns** stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵But the seed on **good soil** stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. **NIV**

Question: Why didn't the seed survive when it landed on the "path" or wayside?

Answer: The Word was heard, but the devil took it out of from the heart before it took root.

Question: Why didn't the seed that landed on the rocky ground survive?

Answer: The person received the Word with joy, but didn't establish roots and when the trials came, fell away.

Question: Why did the seed that fell among thorns, first grow - then die away?

Answer: The thorny ground listener had a problem with priorities. Rather than placing God first and maturing in their walk with the Lord, this person focused on things of this world (worries, riches and pleasures).

Question: Why did the person that had 'good' ground yield a life full of blessings?

Good Soil - This person received the Word, kept right priorities, retained it, and persevered to lead a fruitful life for the Lord.

Facilitator's Comments: We need to ask the Lord to help us realize that to show Him we love Him, we must fall in love and follow His Word. The way for us to keep His comments, is for the Word of God to live and grow in our hearts. We need to continually work on keeping our '**ground**' in good condition, so that every time the Word is placed in our heart - it will flourish. Let's read our final Commentary:

Read

2nd Commentary

How important is the Word of God? The Lord let's us know how important it is when He said in Matthew 4:4, "*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* (NIV) Several people have tried to find another way of finding peace and salvation for their souls. We need the same solid belief in God's word as Simon Peter had, when he proclaimed in John 6:68, "*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* (NIV)

Facilitator's Comments: Let's stand and pray that if there is anything that is keeping us from having 'good ground' in our hearts, that the Lord reveals it to us, so that we can always be willing and able to receive God's life giving and life changing Word in our hearts and to share it with others.

Cell Group Reading Material: The Seed

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