

Taking it Deeper - Discussion notes  
Which Are We?  
Mark 4.1-20  
AGIF January 20

*Sunday summary - In the story of the Sower, Jesus gives us the key to understanding all the parables. He tells us that the condition of our hearts is the key to truly hearing what he is saying. The way we listen and apply what God has said determines if we truly are following.*

*We'd like to try this - asking for prayer for one thing in our church, a church-wide request for us to pray for each week. See bottom for this week's request.*

Intro question: What is something you used to hear all the time growing up? It could be a sound like a train rolling by, a favorite saying your dad always used to say to you, or possibly a nickname you had. What does thinking about that sound do to you now?

Read Mark 4.1-20

What would you name this parable if you were the one who named parables?  
What was Jesus' explanation of the four soils?

Describe someone you know outside this group who is the good soil Jesus is talking about.

Why do you think Jesus says in verse 13 that this parable is the key to understanding all the rest of the parables?

Which of the first three soils is your greatest tendency to be?  
How can you listen to God in such a way it leads to permanent, lasting change?

Prayer suggestion: Each person is going to pray for the person to the right of them, to the left of them, and then across them.

To the right: that the things in their life that have made them hardened to God's word is softened and they let go of those things.

To the left: that when hardship comes (and it will!) that they hold fast to the message of God.

Across from you: Listen to the voice of God and do not let the thorns growing up alongside choke out their joy and faith.

*Church-wide prayer request - Pray for our new youth pastors Daniel & Tiffany Arachikavitz and their three sons as they work through the issues relating to settling (they hope to be here in April). Pray also for unity and discernment as we confirm our budget and new elders this coming Sunday January 27.*