



## Part 4: How to Enter the Kingdom of God

***Note: We have provided you with more questions than you will likely need. Please don't feel pressure to talk about every question. Use the ones that you feel will be most useful in generating discussion in your group. We've designed this curriculum to be as user-friendly as possible. We've divided each week into "Hear," "Discuss," and "Apply" sections. In the different sections there will be passages of Scripture to read, notes to read to your group, and questions to ask.***

### Icebreaker

#### Ask

Share about a simple life lesson that had a specific story or experience attached to it.

What stuck out to you from the sermon?

# Hear

### Say

Parnell clarifies for us one of the reasons Jesus used parables. He explained that parables were the way He attached story alongside doctrine to help us understand what the kingdom of God looks like. Those that receive His word and believe, are given secrets to the Kingdom. (vs. 11)

- What was your understanding of parables before this series?
- How do stories uniquely help us understand principles?

### Play

Watch the first video clip that is at [www.bridgeway.church/litk](http://www.bridgeway.church/litk)

### Ask

- What are examples of how you have sown or received God's word this week?

# Discuss

### Read

Read Mark 4:1-20

### Say

Let's focus on the deeper explanation that Jesus gave to those who stuck around and asked questions. There are four different types of soil that are four different ways ways that we can receive God's word.

### Ask

*Along the path* (verse 15)

- Parnell pointed out that if our hearts are hard the enemy can steal the word before it's able to take root. What makes us more susceptible to the enemy?

*Rocky ground* (verse 16-17)

- How do trials or persecution make it difficult to continue to believe what we so easily received in the beginning?

---

## LIVING INTO THE KINGDOM GROUPS

- What do you do to battle discouragement or unbelief?

*Soil full of thorns* (verses 18-19)

- Jesus warns us about the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of stuff. How do these lead us away from living into God's kingdom?

*Good soil* (verse 20)

- Jesus says those who have good soil hear God's word, accept it and produce. Watch the following clip to unpack this further.

### Play

Watch the second video clip that is at [www.bridgeway.church/litk](http://www.bridgeway.church/litk)

### Say

Parnell emphasizes the point that those who are good soil are producers.

### Ask

- What are ways we subtly show up as consumers at church? (Examples for the leader are: We critique the atmosphere, we approach God's people like business partners instead of family, we expect to have it our way, we church shop)
- Parnell talked about not just coming to church to receive a blessing but to be a blessing. What does it look like to live as producers who sow God's word into someone else? (Recall what he shared about his aunt's going-home service)

## Apply

### Say

Parnell talked about how simple God has made the kingdom, yet we tend to make following Jesus complicated & difficult.

### Ask

- What are we inclined to add, adapt or expect that complicates our access and practice of the kingdom?

### Say

---

## LIVING INTO THE KINGDOM GROUPS

Parnell finishes by saying, "He's made it easy to get into the kingdom but faith and obedience to God's word helps us live into the Kingdom. Faith and obedience are where the living begins."

### **Close**

#### **Break into groups of 2-3**

- In this season of life what is the condition of your soil?
- Where do you need to increase your faith or obedience today? Give a concrete example of a specific truth from God's word that is hard for you to believe or a specific action he's asked you to take that is hard to live out.
- Finish by praying for each other for strength, perseverance, and victory this week.

### **Staff email addresses**

Brian Kiley, Director of Discipleship- [bkiley@bridgeway.church](mailto:bkiley@bridgeway.church)

Heather Johnson, Missional Communities Coordinator- [hjohnson@bridgeway.church](mailto:hjohnson@bridgeway.church)

Matt Bach, Director of Christian Development, [mbach@bridgeway.church](mailto:mbach@bridgeway.church)