



## Mark – Dig Deeper Summer Study

A co-ed fellowship group focused on digging in and discussing deeper the passages that we're teaching through Mark.

### **Mark 4:21-35 and Luke 15:11-32** **From the June 12 & June 19 Sunday Messages**

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Times – Every other Tuesday, 6-8pm

- July 5
- July 19

*Did you Know? -- This handout is available before each session on the church website, the app (for group members), and will also be shared in the Zoom meeting with online members.*

Session Outline -

- Fellowship
- Read the Word - Mark 4:21-35 and Luke 15:11-32
- Grace Group Discussion
  - Guidelines –
    - **God's Word is our standard.** We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything.
    - **Charity.** We come from varying religious & political backgrounds. Remember: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'
    - **Grace.** We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
    - **Grow & Share.** We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share!
- Teaching/Reflection – Q & R (AKA: "Stump the Pastor!")
- Prayer

## Grace Group Discussion Questions

1. Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ - My favorite appetizer is...
2. Mark 4:21 – 22. What are some ways that unbelievers – as well as those who claim to be believers – hide the light of Jesus? And while Jesus says it's a pointless activity, why are they so determined to keep going? What makes them think they are succeeding?



3. Mark 4:23 (The Message) “Are you listening to this? Really listening?” Hearing is simply the act of perceiving sound by the ear. Listening, however, is something you choose to do – it requires concentration and action. According to Jesus, the more we listen, the more shine we will be provided (Mark 4:24). Why do you think that is? Why wouldn't God just provide all believers as much shine as possible in order to advance his Kingdom even further?
4. Mark 4:26 – 29. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1 – 9 How does the parable of the seeds emphasize God's sovereignty? Why is it reassuring to know that God intends the kingdom to grow under his sovereignty & not under our own might?
5. Mark 4:30 – 32. Why does Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to a scruffy, unkempt mustard bush instead of the majestic Lebanon Cedar of the Old Testament? What does the parable of the mustard seed reveal about the Kingdom of God? How is the parable of the mustard seed encouraging for those who are working towards and praying for the advancement of the Kingdom?
6. To whom does your testimony relate to more? Did you wander around on your own before running to the Father like the younger son? Or – despite it not always being perfect – have you always been with the Father like the older son? Explain.
7. How can a 'younger son' testimony be used to reach out to non-believers and advance the Kingdom of God? How about an 'older son' testimony? What was the younger son's rock bottom? Why was it rock bottom for him? What is it about rock bottom that causes us to come to our senses?
8. Luke 15:29. The older son likened his relationship with his father to slavery. Why? What caused him to become so ungrateful? How can we as believers avoid becoming ungrateful?
9. Luke 15:32 “But we HAD to celebrate...” Why do you believe it's a command of God to celebrate & throw a party for those who repent? And even though we DO rejoice when anyone comes to repentance, why should we be grateful if we have never been thrown a party ourselves?
10. While Mark 4:21 – 34 and Luke 15:11 – 32 are two separate accounts written by two different Bible authors – both accounts were parables spoken by Jesus to advance his Kingdom & further his glory. With that in mind, what is one combined takeaway point we can take from both passages?
11. If you had been with Jesus and the disciples while He was teaching in these accounts, what would you have wanted Jesus to explain more?
12. Thinking back to the sermon through this passage, what point helped you understand better? Got you thinking differently? Left you with another question?