



GROWTH GROUP

Jesus' Parable of Listening to God's Word

Week of 7/26/2020

Getting Started

How much of a gardener are you? Do you have a green thumb?

Into the Word

Read **Isaiah 55:10-13**.

True or false: Whenever we proclaim God's Word, we can be certain that our listeners will be brought to faith.

What does God mean that his Word never returns to him empty but accomplishes what he desires?

Read **Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23**.

What is Jesus' point in this parable?

What is the gospel good news in this parable?

Apply

At different times of your life (probably even different times of your day for that matter), you have been each of the soils Jesus refers to in this parable because of the ways you listen, receive, and pay attention to God's Word. When have you found yourself to be receptive soil? When have you found yourself to be other kinds of soil? What kinds of things happen in your life to help make you good soil and what kinds of things can happen in your life that make you bad soil?

Sometimes the distractions (weeds) in our lives need to be removed altogether (turn off). Sometimes the things we let distract us from God's Word are things that are good to give our attention to, but then we need to be able to move on and give our attention to more important things (turn up). For each of the following lists, choose one thing that you think might be helpful to turn off and one to turn up to mitigate distraction.

At Home

- Watching TV/Movies
- Pursuing a Hobby
- Social Engagements
- Playing Video Games
- Gardening/Yard Manicuring
- Decorating/Redecorating
- Cooking/Eating

In Society

- Politics
- Current Events
- Social Media
- Work/Career
- Retirement Plan/Management
- Charitable Causes
- Continued Education

At Church

- Procedural Matters
- Debates over Style
- Building Projects
- Finance Management
- Charisma
- Programs & Activities
- Fellowship Opportunities

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week as well as your prayer requests for the group.