

Small Group Leader Notes for Week of 8/12

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:9

“This is how God showed his love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.”

Read: Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-43

1. Explain the comparison in your own words how the kingdom of God is like a field of crops?
It is amazing how Jesus used seeds as an illustration of the kingdom and it is such a perfect illustration. Without having a college degree, the man was the most powerful teacher of all time. A seed dies and opens and then sprouts new life and begins to grow and change. When it has become what it was intended, a plant, it produces a crop. The other thing that happens is that it reproduces more seed. Although we do not produce the Kingdom of God or save people, we live it for him and share the gospel of Kingdom of God with others (scattering seeds) ultimately reproducing life. I kind of think God had in mind, this very parable for this very time when he created the world and had the very thought of a seed and a crop. Which came first the chicken or the egg? The illustration (the good seed) or the truth (the Kingdom of God)?
2. What is the danger of living among the weeds?
When we live among the weeds, we can easily be influenced by the weeds and begin to think and act like the weeds. When we live this way, we are unable to produce the crop God intended and our witness is of no value.
3. What is the purpose of living among the weeds?
First of all, when we live for Christ and live as a testimony of his love and power at work in our lives we bear witness to the truth and those seeking him will be drawn into his love. That is scattering seeds and bearing fruit. Additionally, when we live to bear fruit among the weeds we bring glory to God. Think about it, in heaven there will be no evil and no sin. We will live obedient lives but to live among temptation and be pure, to live among evil and be good brings glory and honor to God.
4. How does your life appear differently than those living around you apart from God?
Let people share their hearts. This can be a chance to honor God with their life testimony or to recognize how they fall short in which you can come together a pray and encourage one another into accountability for Christ. Help each person understand how God has uniquely positioned them to scatter seeds of the Kingdom of God.
5. In our memory verse 1 John 4:9, we hear the truth about God’s love. Jesus was sent into the world so we might live, for through and for him, now and in eternity. What do these words encourage you to do?
Dwell on the truth of this verse. This is the gospel presentation and we would all do well to memorize the power of this truth. I am encouraged to live for Christ and to let others know about the truth of this verse. I want to share that God sent His son into the world for me so that I can live through him!

Daily Reading Schedule:

- Day 1 Romans 6
- Day 2 Romans 7
- Day 3 Romans 8
- Day 4 Romans 9
- Day 5 Romans 10