



Life Group Discussion Guide

January 26 – Mark 4

Life Group Leaders,

During our *100 Days with Jesus*, you will have two approach options to guide your group in studying Sunday's text. We encourage you to try both methods over the next few months.

1. **Discussion Questions** – Each week, you'll receive a set of questions related to the text. If you choose this option, feel free to *select the questions that best fit your group's needs and dynamics*.
2. **SEEDS Discovery Bible Study** – This method introduces a Bible study format designed to empower participants to engage deeply with Scripture. The goal is to equip your group members with a practical tool for exploring the Bible with others, aligning with our mission to *Advance the Kingdom with Jesus*.

Both options are designed to enrich your group's experience. Experiment with each to discover what works best for your group. Thank you for leading and serving so well!

Discussion Questions:

Mark 4:1-20 --- The Parable of the Sower

1. What do the different soils represent?
2. What causes the first three soils not to bear fruit from the word?
3. What causes the word sown on good soil to bear fruit? (Mark 4:20)
4. In our present day, what prevents the word of God from bearing fruit in someone's life?
5. What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of God?

Mark 4:21-25 --- The Lamp Under a Basket

1. Read Mark 4:21-23, Matthew 5:14-16, and Luke 8:16-18.
2. What does the Matthew version teach us about the meaning of the parable of the lamp and letting your light shine? (What is our light? What is the goal of letting our light shine?)
3. In the parables so far Jesus said, "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." How is hearing explained in Luke 8:18 and Mark 4:24-25? (See also Matthew 4:20)

Mark 4:26-29 --- The Parable of the Seed Growing

1. What does this parable teach about the nature of the kingdom of God and its growth?
2. How do you handle a situation where the process is a mystery to our knowledge, and the timing cannot be controlled?

Mark 4:30-32 --- The Parable of the Mustard Seed

1. How does the mustard seed illustrate the kingdom of God's potential and impact?
2. What can this parable teach us about the power of small beginnings in ministry or personal faith?

Mark 4:35-41 --- Jesus Calms the Storm

1. What does this event reveal about Jesus' identity and authority?
2. Why do you think the disciples were so afraid, even after witnessing Jesus' miracles?
3. How does Jesus' question, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" apply to situations in your life?
4. How can this story remind us during life's storms not to be afraid but to place our faith and trust in God?

Application and Reflection

1. What in this chapter encourages you?
2. What in this chapter challenges you?

SEEDS Bible Study:

The Discovery Method works most effectively in small groups of three to four people. For larger gatherings, consider breaking into smaller groups to encourage deeper discussion. Here's a simple format to follow:

- **Form Small Groups:** Divide the larger group into smaller groups of three to four people.
- **Pose Questions:** Present one question at a time for the smaller groups to discuss. Allow a few minutes for meaningful conversation.
- **Share Insights:** Invite groups to share their thoughts with the larger group, if they feel led. This step fosters collective learning and reflection.
- **Repeat for Additional Questions:** Continue the process with the next question, following the same structure.
- **Close in Prayer:** Conclude the session with prayer, either within the smaller groups or together as a large group.

This approach encourages participation, reflection, and shared learning while keeping the conversation focused and engaging.

Discussion Questions:

Share

- What are you grateful for?
- What is stressing you out?

Explore

- What stood out to you from the sermon?
- Read the text twice (Select a portion of this week's text to focus on for your group's discussion.)
- Retell the passage in your own words.

Examine

- What questions, observations, and thoughts do you have about this passage?
- What does this text say about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and humanity?

Do It – Either alone or with others in the group.

- If the text is true, what are you sensing God saying to you?
- Write an "I will" statement.
- What does that look like for you?

Seek God's Kingdom

- **Tell:** Is there someone in your life you can share this text/truth with?
- **Give:** Is there someone in your life that you can serve this week?
- **Pray:** Close in prayer: God, thank You for planting SEEDS in us so we can share those SEEDS with others as we Advance the Kingdom!