

Life Notes

MISSION JH | June 9/10

Day 1

READ: Matthew 13:1-4 and 13:18-19. The seed, Jesus tell us in verse 19, is the message about the kingdom, the Gospel. The seed sown along the path is the people who hear and don't understand... at all. They don't let the news sink in to the soil of their soul, so birds come along and grab it right up.

LOOK: Ask God for the ability to see places that He is working in your life.

JOURNAL: Is there someone in your life that reminds you of the 'path person'? Praying for them is so important. If they are unwilling to listen to the word, how can you show them God's love? The kind of life you live, the way you treat others, your relationship with God - can these things 'speak' to these people?

Day 2

READ: Matthew 13:5-6 and 13:20-22. This second person is so excited about God and the news of Jesus-but that is where it stops. They are about the feeling, and as soon as things feel difficult, they wither. They didn't take the time or make the effort to deeply understand, and root, their belief.

LOOK: Find an opportunity to serve someone today - with a joyful heart.

JOURNAL: Jesus told this parable to a large crowd. When the disciples were alone with him later, they asked for understanding. How does time alone with God each day in your life deepen your roots?

Day 3

READ: Matthew 13:7 and 13:22. This is one that most of us can relate to. This faith has roots, but is trapped, tangled. The things in this world choke it's growth, and it can never be fruitful.

LOOK: Ask God to help you see things in your life that are crowding your faith.

JOURNAL: When we are crowded in, what are some of the things that our life won't 'grow'? Read Galatians 5:22 and list these fruits. Which ones do you see in your life? Which ones would you like to see more of?

Day 4

READ: Jesus also uses a plant metaphor in John 15. Read verses 1-8 of John 15. Stop for a moment and pray. Ask God to guide your heart. Now read the passage again... slowly. Is there a thought that stands out? A phrase or word that seems to apply to this moment in your life? Take some time to think through and journal about this passage. Write what stood out to you and why you think that God wants to show you that at this moment in your life.

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Day 5

READ: Matthew 13:1-23. At last we arrive at the fertile ground. The good, deep soil with no choking weeds surrounding it. Jesus explains that these are the people that hear the word, understand, and then produce - a lot! This whole time the problem wasn't with the seed; it was with the soil.

LOOK: Who in your life seems to have this 'good' soil? Why do they stand out?

JOURNAL: Which of the four places that the seeds landed do you feel you are right now? What stood out to you most during this past week? What did you learn about yourself? About God?

discussion

Questions & topics for conversation with your leaders, family & friends...

- Discuss the path, rocky places, thorns, and then good soil. How did each receive the news of the kingdom?
- The disciples asked for understanding, and Jesus explained himself to them. Have you ever not understood something, and then asked God for wisdom to understand? Did He answer?
- On day 3, we talked about the fruits... discuss the opposites of these fruits. Do they seem to be more present in lives that are being choked by the world?
- Talk about the importance of prayer when it comes to the non-believers around you.
- Was there a time recently that you needed God but felt like He didn't show up for you?
- Was there a time recently that God really showed up for you and you felt His presence or guidance?

Contact Information

If you have questions or would like someone to talk to this week, email Josh at joshb@mission68.org. We would also love to hear your story - what are you learning and how are you growing closer to God and your MISSION family? Let us know by sharing with your leaders or emailing Josh.

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