

Tending *the* Soul

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 1
DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG

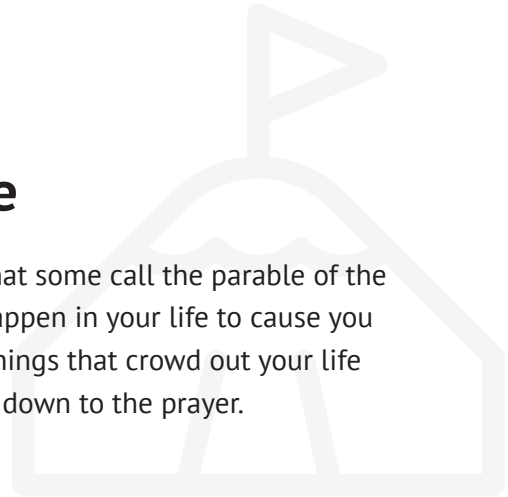
SUMMARY | The most common expectation in planting a seed is that it will sprout and grow. However, the soil that surrounds it determines whether or not it will develop into a healthy plant. In this study of the parable of the sower, we'll explore four conditions of the soul—our internal soil—that can affect our ability to hear from God and grow in our walk with the Lord.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. In the parable of the sower (Luke 8:4–15), what does the seed represent?
2. What are the different “soils” the seed falls into? What does each soil represent?
3. Which soils do you relate to right now? Is there a particular “condition of the soul” that describes where you are at with God? (Hint: we are not all “good soil” all the time.) Why do you think we fluctuate between different “soul conditions”?
4. Why do you think we fluctuate between different “soul conditions”?
5. Do you ever feel “crowded out” by the worries and concerns of this life? What worries you the most? How can you give that to God?

Challenge

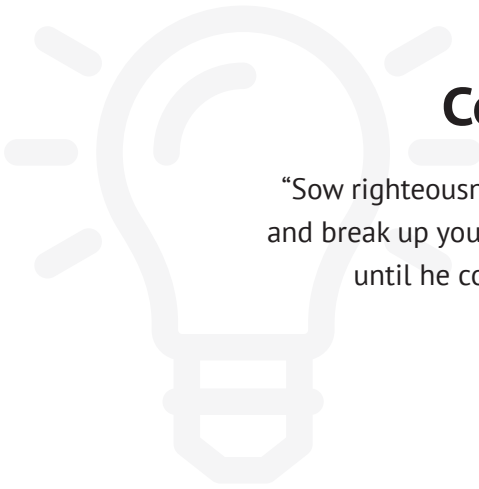
Draw a picture of the parable of the sower (or what some call the parable of the soils). In each soil, write down the things that happen in your life to cause you to become that soil (e.g., weeds might be the things that crowd out your life with worry). After you're finished, skip down to the prayer.



Commit To Memory

“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you”

Hosea 10:12



Prayer

Father, bring my focus back to You so nothing will get in the way of me hearing Your voice and being changed by Your Word. Break up the ground of my soul and condition it to become good soil. Help me to sow righteousness so my harvest will be bountiful with the fruit of Your unfailing love.

Amen.

