

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

*Matthew 13:1-23*

### MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

**MAIN IDEA:** THE PRIMARY SKILL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HEARING

1. BEWARE OF LISTENING WITH A HARD HEART
2. BEWARE OF LISTENING WITH A SHALLOW HEART
3. BEWARE OF LISTENING WITH A DIVIDED HEART

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. **ICEBREAKER:** Who is the best listener you've ever known? Have you ever been told you're a good listener?
3. This week we started a new series called "The Kingdom." What are some unique aspects of God's kingdom compared to the kingdoms of this world? The kingdom of God can be hard to grasp. What is one thing about the kingdom of God that you find hard to understand?
4. If the primary skill of the kingdom of God is hearing the message of this kingdom then we should make sure that we are hearing correctly. When you use the parable of the sower as a self-diagnostic tool, do you see any ways that your own heart is hard (only hearing intellectually), shallow (only hearing emotionally) or divided (choked out by other cares and concerns)?
5. Pastor Ryan mentioned that this week's message was a sobering one. Which part was most sobering to you? Why? After a sobering message like the parable of the sower, where do we find hope?
6. **OPEN DISCUSSION:** Discuss the parable of the sower and what impacts you, scares you, encourages you and confuses you about it. After discussing the parable spend time in prayer together asking that God would give you a heart that hears like the final soil in the parable that bears fruit.