

## Scripture-Centered Discipleship

Fruitful and enduring discipleship is not guaranteed. Disciple-makers must be alert to the spiritual dynamics that can deepen or hinder growth. This session will explore the implications of Jesus' parable of the sower as we help others to be shaped by the Scriptures.

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### I. Disciples are shaped by Scripture

- a. *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."* Matthew 7:24
- b. *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."* John 8:31
- c. *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."* John 15:8
- d. *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* Matthew 28:19-20

### II. Maturity is not guaranteed

### III. Jesus interprets the challenge (Mark 4:1-20)

- a. Farmer scatters
- b. Miracle seed
- c. Hard soil
- d. Rocky soil
- e. Thorny soil
- f. Good soil

**IV. Overcoming barriers to growth**

**V. Intentional response**

Area of life	Application Questions
God	What does this passage show about God’s character and purposes? How does my view of God need to change in light of what I learn here? How would my relationship with God be different if I fully believed what this passage says about him?
Self	With which of the characters do I most identify? Why? Does that character provide an example to follow or avoid? How does this passage challenge me to repent, trust, or act?
Relationships	What problem between people is addressed in this passage? In which of my relationships is that problem present? How does this passage call me to treat people differently?
Mission	What does this passage reveal about God’s purposes in the world? How does this passage invite me to participate with God in what he is doing?

**Suggested reading:**

- M. Robert Mulholland Jr., *Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation* (Upper Room)
- Greg Ogden, *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time* (IVP)
- Lindsay Olesberg, *The Bible Study Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to an Essential Practice* (IVP)