

# Connecting Group Study Guide

## *Knowing, Growing, Going*

Week of July 24-30, 2016

### Follow-up

1. Start by checking in with each other about your previous week.
2. Did God lay anyone on your heart with whom you could start a discipling relationship? Did you reach out to them and set up an initial meeting?

This week we continued our series exploring discipleship. Our focus was upon the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, which transforms those who believe in Jesus Christ, and leads the church on its mission of multiplying disciples for God's kingdom.

Read the following passage: Mark 4:1-20.

### Knowing God

1. According to this parable of Jesus, what is the "seed" the farmer is sowing (v.14).
2. Does this point provide us with any insights about the importance of God's Word?
3. Describe, in your own words, the differing responses to the generous sowing of God's word.

### Growing in Christ-likeness

1. This parable of Jesus seems to constantly reference "soil" and "seed". Why do you think Jesus focused so much on these two words?
2. In spite of the seeming bad news involving the seed among the path, rocks and weeds, there is good news in this parable. Look at vv. 8, 20. What do these verse point out to us?
3. What do you think is the "fruit" Jesus is referencing in this parable?

### Going to Our Neighbors and the World

1. Look closely at the actions of the sower in this parable. Does it seem like the sower is wasteful with the seed in any way?
2. What implications can we glean from this picture of the sower for our life of discipleship?

### Action Steps

According to this parable, the seed the farmer sows is the word of God. As disciples of Jesus we must be reminded constantly that our mission (doing) will only happen out of first beign with God. One important aspect of the Christian life involves being with God in his word.

- (1) Make it a point to schedule a daily "appointment" with God throughout this week. Spend time meditating on his word. Like the good soil in the story, allow the word to take root in your heart and life.
- (2) What steps can you take to make time in God's word a regular habit for your life?

Close in prayer together.