

# The Gospel of Mark

## Home Group Discussion Guide

*Listen and Grow Spiritually*

Mark 4:21-25

**ICEBREAKER:** Do you usually send serious or humorous greeting cards? Why?

**OVERVIEW:** God wants you to grow spiritually, but the amount and speed at which you grow depends on you. There is something you must do. A condition that must be met. In Mark 4:21-25, we learn that the key to spiritual growth is to **listen closely**. Only then is growth possible. In this discussion we will go deeper with what it means to listen closely in our daily lives.

1. Read Mark 4:21-25. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What does Jesus say about those who listen to His teaching? What about those who ignore Him? Why do you think Jesus chose to say this at the end of His Sermon on the Mount?
3. Read Colossians 1:9-10. What are the different ways that Paul is praying for the believers in Colossae to grow?
4. In which of these ways do you need the most growth? Explain. What practical steps can you take to grow like this?
5. Do you feel like you are growing right now, or that you've hit a wall? Explain.
6. In Mark 4:1-25, Jesus said that the key to growth is to listen closely. First of all, that means to seek God's word diligently. What might it look like to seek God's word diligently in everyday life?
7. Have you been diligently seeking God's word? Explain. How do you need to change?
8. To listen closely means to seek God's word diligently, and to apply it immediately. Have you ever been at a point in your spiritual life when you heard God's word but didn't listen? Explain.
9. Describe a recent experience when God spoke to you, either through His word or in your heart, and you obeyed.
10. Go over the "Ts of Obedience" again. Are there any areas that God is speaking to you that you need to obey?
  - Am I obeying God with my temple (my body)?
  - With my treasure (money)?
  - With my tongue (speech)?
  - With my talents?
  - With my time?
  - With my thoughts?
11. What do you need to do to grow in obedience?

**The Last Word:** Success is reading your Bible and doing what it says.