

The Gospel of Mark

Home Group Discussion Guide

3 Forgotten Realities of Spiritual Growth

Mark 4:26-29

ICEBREAKER: What is beauty?

OVERVIEW: Spiritual growth is not easy. It can be discouraging, and therefore it is tempting to give up. In Mark 4:26-29, we learn three forgotten realities of spiritual growth that can help us to stay the course. Jesus teaches us that **spiritual growth is kingdom growth, it is caused by God, and it can take a long time, but if you continue to plant God's word in your life, you will grow.**

1. Read Mark 4:26-29. 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. The first forgotten reality is that spiritual growth is kingdom growth. What can we learn about the kingdom of God from the following verses?
 - Matthew 3:2
 - Matthew 6:33
 - Matthew 12:28
 - Luke 17:20-21
 - Luke 19:11
 - John 3:3
 - John 18:36
 - Romans 4:17
 - 1 Corinthians 4:20
 - 1 Corinthians 15:50
3. The kingdom of God is the reign and rule of Christ. Why is it important to remember that spiritual growth is kingdom growth?
4. How is God trying to grow His kingdom in and through your life right now?

5. The second reality is that spiritual growth is caused by God. Why is that important to remember?
6. If spiritual growth is caused by God and not us, then what is our role?
7. Just as a farmer can work hard and create optimal conditions for growth, what are some ways you can create optimal conditions for spiritual growth in your life? (Parents, how can you create optimal conditions for spiritual growth in the lives of your kids?)
8. The third reality is that spiritual growth takes a long time. How is it helpful to remember this truth?
9. Describe an area of your life that God has matured, but it has take a long time.
10. What is an area that you know you need to change, but growth is not coming quickly or easily?
11. The promise of this parable is that spiritual growth is sure to happen eventually as we continue to plant God's word in our lives. What do you need to do to keep planting God's word in your life?

The Last Word: Spiritual growth is Kingdom growth. Is the Kingdom of God growing in you? Is Jesus growing in preeminence and supremacy and authority in your life? Is He reigning over every arena of your life?