



## **Study Guide**

Lent 2012 Sermon/Study Series  
Expect More

# *“Change Your Environment”*

Week #1

February 25/26, 2012

Next week: March 3/4: *“Expect Synergy”*

**Scripture References**  
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Read and reflect on the following scriptures.

Mark 4:1-8

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

Ephesians 3:17-21

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

This sermon is based on studies Pastor Neal has been doing on understanding God's direction in our lives. He has developed a seminar to help us become the kind of people who know what next steps to take and are willing and able to take those steps and make those changes. Consider coming as a small group to this seminar.

Discovering Your Next Step

Saturday, March 17, 8:30-3:00, lunch provided. \$15 per person.

At Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church

Contact [Lynn@rbcp.org](mailto:Lynn@rbcp.org) to register

For more information, contact Rev. Neal Nybo, 858-487-0811, [neal@rbcp.org](mailto:neal@rbcp.org)

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**Scripture**

1. Read the Mark 4 scripture.
2. What stands out to you about the parable?
3. What might rocks, birds, thorns, and path look like in our lives?
4. Can you think of an example of God lavishly sowing His Word?
  
5. Read the Ephesians 3 scripture.
6. Describe a time you have truly known the depth and breadth of God’s love.
7. What does it mean to be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God?
8. What are some implications of the statement that God is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine?”

**Sermon**

1. Describe a positive change that occurred in your life because you changed your environment.
2. Have you thought about what one thing you could add to your life?
3. What stops you from adding it?
4. What excites you about adding it? (if nothing excites you, think of something else!)

Neal described a Holy Spirit Welcoming Situation as:

1. It will be something you enjoy or are interested.
  2. It will involve other people outside the church.
  3. It will be something already going on, not something you start yourself.
  4. It will be for the purpose of letting the Holy Spirit use it and the people you meet to help you grow.
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1. How do these four elements help the Holy Spirit work in your life?

**Life Application**

1. Where do you need growth in your life?
2. What could you add that might be a Holy Spirit Welcoming Situation?
3. What step can you take this week to begin to change your environment?

**Prayer**

Lord, I welcome change. I want to open myself up to the work of your Holy Spirit in my life. Please lead me, connect me with people, speak in my heart, in ways that help me grow. Amen.