

STUDY GUIDE:

Extraordinary Life Series in Mark:

Seeds and the Kingdom of God | Mark 4:26-34

Read Mark 4:26-29 | The Growing Seed

Sowing seeds was so ordinary, so ‘every-day-life’... Why didn’t Jesus choose a more spectacular analogy?

Once the seed is scattered and the farmer has done their part, who is in control of the seeds growth? (see 1 Cor 3:7)

Verse 28 points out a process of growth — can you see this in your life? What did Neal have to say about this process of spiritual maturity?

Verse 29 — The sickle ends life to give life to the one who eats. What is the meaning of this for you?

Read Mark 4:30-32 | The Mustard Seed

Wouldn’t it have been better to talk about about Cedar seeds rather than mustard? Why do you think Jesus chose the Mustard seed?

One commentary labels the theme of these parables to be “From Insignificance to Incomprehensible”. How do you see this message in the gospel?

The birds were not eagles, they were just ordinary birds enjoying the shade of the Mustard weed-bush. Why did Jesus include the ordinary birds here?

A humble inclusive grandeur. A great hope. It’s all in these pictures of the Kingdom of God. How would you describe the Kingdom of God now?

Read Mark 4:33-34 and re-read Mark 4:9-10

“Only in connection to Jesus can the language of God be understood.”

How do you find this to be true with your reading of the bible? Are we encouraged to ask questions?

What about when it doesn’t make sense? Do these stories show that understanding comes in isolation or in community?

Ashes and Storms.

Join us for the Ash Wednesday Service where we talk about storms in life. Jesus takes on a storm in Mark 4, and it has everything to do with how Jesus can bring you calm in the midst of life’s storms.