



Group Guide

Called to Respond

August 31, 2025

Main Passage: Jonah 1:1-3; Mark 4:3-9,13-20

Theological Theme

We are all called to sow seeds of the gospel wherever we go, trusting God with the response.

Introduction

- ❓ How was the gospel “sown” in your life? How long did it take for the fruit of the gospel to come about?
- ❓ Who do you know who has built a legacy of sowing gospel seeds?

1. The Call to Sow (Mark 4:3-9)

The parable of the sower (also known as the parable of the soils) is one of the most well-known parables in the Gospels. Our account today is from the Gospel of Mark, but it is also recorded in Matthew (Matthew 13:1-23) and Luke (Luke 8:4-15).

- ❓ What action and reactions do we see throughout this passage?
- ❓ What stands out to you about the sower in these verses? How might this apply to us?
- ❓ Application: What does it look like to sow seeds of the gospel in daily life?

2. Are We Obedient? (Jonah 1:1-3)

The Lord had a mission for Jonah: go to Nineveh and preach. God had taken note of Nineveh’s wickedness and was calling them to repent by sending His prophet, Jonah, to speak on His behalf. Jonah, however, did not share the Lord’s compassion for the city (Jonah 4). When God charged Jonah with going to the gentile city of Nineveh, Jonah hopped on a ship headed in the opposite direction to Tarshish, hoping to flee the Lord’s presence.

- ❓ What was the call for obedience in this passage?

- ❓ How did Jonah respond? Why are we prone to respond similarly to the call to go and share with others, especially those we have conflict with?
- ❓ Application: Where might you be responding to God like Jonah? How can we seek heart change in these areas?

3. What Kind of Soil Are You? (Mark 4:13-20)

We looked at this parable from the perspective of the sower earlier, and now we'll look at it from the perspective of the soil. Jesus explained what this parable means: In some instances, when the good news is shared, Satan interferes, and it doesn't take root; persecution or hardship drive some to abandon Jesus; and wealth and power push some to pursue their own desires over following Jesus. These are the three soils that ultimately don't receive the message and grow.

- ❓ What stands out to you from Jesus's explanation of the parable?
- ❓ How does Jesus explain the different soils represented in the parable? How have you seen others respond to the gospel message in some of these ways? How have you responded in some of these ways to the gospel message?
- ❓ Application: Assess your heart today. How are you responding to the gospel? How can you seek to be honest with others and with God, seeking tenderness to the gospel message?

Conclusion

- ❓ Have you ever hesitated to talk to someone about Jesus because you didn't think they would respond positively? When have you been surprised by a person's response in your own experience or the shared experience of another?
- ❓ How can we support one another as a group seeking to sow the seeds of the gospel everywhere we go?
- ❓ Who is God calling you to share the gospel with now? How can we pray for you as you pursue talking with them about Jesus?