



Story of My Life – Week 1 – Parable of the Sower
Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

"He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

'Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.'"

Matthew 13:3-9

Reflection Questions:

- What's one unexpected way you experienced God in your everyday life this week?
- Eddie shared this question: Why do people who've encountered the same spiritual influences respond in such different ways? Have you ever wrestled with this? Are there people who come to mind?
- Read Jesus' parable and teaching in Matthew 13:1-23. If you're with others, have someone read it out loud and listen. If you're alone, you can hear someone else read it on the Bible app – youversion.com.
- What do you notice about listening to Jesus' story and his teaching?
- Where do you find yourself in the story?

What kind of soil are you today? What words would you use to describe the condition of your heart toward God?

Here are a few possibilities that Eddie shared – do any of them resonate with you?

- Is your heart like a well-worn path, hard and difficult to penetrate?
- Is your heart shallow soil? You experience short bursts of growth, but they never last.
- Maybe you're in so much pain, you're not growing, you're just hanging on.

- Or, perhaps your heart is wide open to the change God wants to bring.
- What are the spiritual practices that have helped you stay connected to Jesus? What might be helpful for you to commit to on a regular basis that keeps you open and receptive to God?
- “Cultivate what should grow and remove what shouldn’t.” What needs to grow in your life? What needs to be removed? Get specific – and share with a trusted spiritual friend.

Prayer:

- **Reflect on these words from God & talk to Him honestly about your response:**
“And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart,²⁰ so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.”
Ezekiel 11:19-20