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**Series Big Idea:** Who is Jesus, and who are we because of Him?

**Today’s Big Idea:** Cultivating a Teachable Heart Toward God

**Leader Reminders:**

* Don’t skip your own personal time with Jesus each day. You can also use “The Other Six” to guide your time in the Word.
* Don’t skip praying for your students, either. There is a spiritual battle going on for the hearts of your students. Go before the Lord on their behalf!
* Start a group text chat.

**Ice Breakers:**

* Give any **announcements**
* **Soccer Ball/Hot Seat**
* **Happy, Crappy, God Moment**
* **Prayer Requests and Praises**
* **The Other Six Devotional Follow Up**: Follow up on the last week! What has been working well for each of you? What has God been speaking to you?

**Starter Questions:** *Start your group in prayer. Have a student pray!*

* If you could be any vegetable, what would you be and why?
* Where are my science people at? What are the important elements to make a plant grow? Extra props if you know the scientific process names!

**Abide Activity:** Change things up a bit this week. Give your students 5 minutes of individual time to read, pray, and journal through **Mark 4:1–8** before you start your group discussion.

**Digging into the Word:** *Have a student read* ***Mark 4:1–8.***

* What was interesting about this passage? What confused you?
* What is a parable? Why do you think Jesus used parables to teach?
* What was Jesus’ point in sharing this parable?
* Jesus used ordinary things that people could relate to in order to explain the truths of God. 2,000 years ago, everything was largely agrarian, or rural. If Jesus came back today in the flesh, instead of farming analogies, what do you think He would use to explain God’s kingdom?

*Have a student read* ***Mark 4:9.***

* What do you think Jesus meant by this statement?
* On a scale of 1 to 10, how teachable would you say you are? How willing are you to receive correction or input from others?

*Have a student read* ***Mark 4:13–20.***

* Let’s recap. What are the four types of soil that Jesus talked about?
* How have you seen your friends, or even yourself, have hearts like different types of soil? Which ones do you most easily fall into?
* How can we cultivate a heart that is like the good soil? Why is this so important as a Christian?
* How have “seeds” (The Word/truth about Jesus) been sown in your life?
* What would it look like for you to scatter the truths of Jesus to others in your life? (friends, family, at school, at your job, at the store or restaurants)

**Wrapping It Up:**

**Say This:** Who can tell us the two questions we are asking over the course of this study on Jesus?

* What can we learn about **who Jesus is** based on his sermon about the seeds and the soil?
* As you are starting to get to know who Jesus is, **who are you learning that you are because of Him?** What is your takeaway this week?

**Challenge:** Let’s keep working our way through the book of Mark this week using our “Other Six” devotionals. Don’t let this be a burden. Even ask God to give you the desire to spend time with Him. Ask Him to make your heart like the good soil that is teachable to all He wants to do in and through your life.

**Take Home Idea:** This week, consider giving each of your students a packet of seeds from your local hardware store as a reminder to spend time with Jesus and cultivate a teachable heart (good soil) toward God.

[**Youth Pastor Note:** Consider buying these for each of your small groups.]

**Prayer Partners:** Break students into pairs to pray for each other to be firmly rooted in Jesus and to begin recognizing areas where their identity has been wrapped up in a worldly way of thinking instead of a kingdom way of thinking.

**Stay Connected:** Text each student individually later in the week, saying something like, “Hey, God put you on my heart today! I just want you to know how wonderful it is to have you in my small group. It’s been great getting to know you. Have an awesome day. I’m praying for you!” Also, post the follow-up social media graphic and devo for the week so your students see it!