

JESUS IS LOOKING FOR LISTENERS

Read Mark 4:1-20; Isaiah 6:8-10; Ezekiel 33:32

Jesus told his disciples that he teaches in parables in order to reveal the condition of hearts – to reveal who is listening. The obscure, veiled nature of his teachings draw the listener closer, but pushes the hard hearted further away.

- **When is the last time you failed to listen to someone? Why weren't you listening?**
- **When was the last time you were confused by God? Either by life circumstance or in Scripture?**
- **What life circumstances can lead to the bad soil types? Have you experienced any of these circumstances recently?**
- **What kind of soil are you?**
- **What does Jesus' parable tell us about the Sower?**

Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 20:49, Ezekiel 33:32

The purpose of the obscure in the Bible, or the “mysterious” work of God in our lives is to draw us closer. To encourage us to Lean In, Listen & Ask Questions.

- **How do you sense God calling you to Lean In to Him in this season?**
- **What has been your practice of Listening to God?**
- **What Questions are you currently asking God?**

- Why did Jesus teach in Parables?
- If he didn't explain the parable, would you have understood it?
- Why is this parable critical to understanding the other parables?

APPLICATION

How will you lean in, listen & ask questions this week?

Share your application with the group. Commit to checking in with one another during the week about this process.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Take some time to pray for each other.

Take some time to listen first. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your prayers.

Open up the time for people to pray the things out loud that Spirit has prompted.