



## Getting My Life to Grow

Matthew 13:3-23

**The Kingdom of Heaven is the spiritual rule of God in the hearts of those who put their trust in Christ.**

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still 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! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." –Jesus, Matthew 13:3-9 (NLT)

### Path = hard hearts

"The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts." - Jesus, Matthew 13:19-20

### Shallow dirt = shallow faith

"The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word." –Jesus, Matthew 13:20-21

### Weeds = strangled faith

"The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, ...but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced." –Jesus, Matthew 13:22 (NLT)

## Good dirt = fulfilled life living with God and His plan.

"The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" –Jesus, Matthew 13:23

### How do I become better dirt?

"The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word..." –Jesus, Matthew 13:23 (NLT)

"...a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." Jesus, Matthew 13:8-9

### For your LifeGroup and growth time.

Talk together...

How many of you have a 'green thumb'? Why do you like to grow your plants? What's it take to get your stuff to grow?

Read Matthew 13:1-23. What is the 'soil'? Talk together about what each type of 'soil' represents.

Why do some respond to Jesus and some don't? Why doesn't He make sense to EVERYBODY?

All of us, at some time in our lives, probably can identify with one or more of these types of 'soils'. Talk together about a time when you were a certain kind of soil. (If you are a certain kind 'now', feel free to share that, too). What got you out of it?

What kind of 'fruit' is Jesus talking about in verse 23? Why do some produce more than others?

Pray together and support each other!

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you ([emma@marinerscc.org](mailto:emma@marinerscc.org))