



# Best. News. Ever.

## Listen Carefully

Discussion Guide  
October 7, 2018  
Luke 8:1-15

## Questions for Study

\*\* Before you begin, please read Luke 8:1-15 as a group.

1. Share an experience where you missed something important that someone said. (Maybe you misunderstood or didn't hear something – even though you seemed to be listening.)
2. Why is listening well an important skill to develop? What can happen if you don't learn to listen well?
3. In Luke 8:1-15, Jesus shares one of His most well-known parables. In your own words, briefly summarize what Jesus says in 3-4 sentences. What point is Jesus trying to make?
4. Look closely at Luke 8:9-10. What Jesus is saying here is that sometimes our ability to hear (or inability to hear) is affected more by the condition of our hearts than our physical ears. How can the condition of our hearts make us more or less receptive to hearing from God?
5. Look closely at Luke 8:11-15 and observe that every type of soil the seed fell on HEARS the message. (To really make this clear, you may want to circle or underline the word "hear" in verses 12, 13, 14, and 15.) The issue, then, is not lack of hearing; the issue is response. Why is responding well to truth from God's Word so important?
6. Look at each of the three "negative responses" to hearing the word of God in verses 12, 13, and 14. What might this look like today? Which of these do you feel you personally face?
7. Now look at the positive response to hearing God's Word that we read about in Luke 8:15. What do you think it looks like for the truth of God's Word to "produce a crop" in you and through you? Work together to develop a list of 6-8 ways God's Word can transform you.
8. Do you have any examples – either from your own life or someone you know – whose life has been changed by consistent time in God's Word? What has this looked like in your / their life?
9. Read the following passages about God's Word. How do these passages provide motivation for you to listen carefully to what God says?
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - Hebrews 4:12
  - Psalm 19:7-11
10. From everything you've learned in Luke 8:1-15, how would you explain what "listening well" to God's Word involves?
11. How can you continue to develop this skill? What does this look like in practical terms?
12. **Challenge: Memorize Matthew 7:24-25:** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."