

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Luke 8:4-15

Ice Breaker: When is the last time you were at a farm or orchard? What do you remember about it or what aspect left a lasting impression?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 8:4-8:** What is the setting of this passage? What sorts of people do you think were gathered to hear Jesus' message?
2. What is the "seed" in this passage? What specific stories has Luke told thus far in his gospel that shape our understanding of "seed" in this passage?
3. What do you think the reception of this message would have been in Jesus' day? Why is it important that this message was counter cultural? What does this say about the kingdom of God?
4. What is the role of the sower in this passage? What does it mean to sow the seed "broadly"? What ways do we try to "test the soil" in our evangelism? How do we keep ourselves from judging the hearts of those we are sharing the gospel with?
5. What are the four types of soil in Jesus' parable and what has caused each seed to die or to grow? Spend some time considering how each type would have related to Jesus' audience? Then, discuss what ways each type might apply to us.
6. How does this parable bring of Jesus' bring judgment on those who listen? How might it bring hope to those who listen?
7. Jesus speaks of two soils (rocky and thorny) that remind us of the trials and temptations in life. How have the rocky trials in your life tempted you to turn away from Jesus or disbelieve his word? How have you seen Jesus use the trials in your life to bring you closer to Jesus?
8. How do the temptations of this world (riches, pleasure, cares, jobs, kids, etc) turn you away from Jesus? How might they cause you to "not mature" in your faith? Do you think this happens often in your life? In the life of Castleton? If so, how can we keep it from happening?
9. The parable ends with the patience bearing of fruit. What examples have you had of this endurance in your life? Are you ever worried that you might not endure like them? If so, why? If not, what things are you doing today that will keep the good harvest of fruit coming in your own life?