



Discussion Guide

Series: Prep Time, Wk2: Proclaim

March 01, 2026

 **Big Idea**
The effectiveness of God's Word in our lives depends on the condition of our hearts, so we must prepare our hearts to receive it and to faithfully sow its truth, trusting God with the results.

 **Icebreaker**
What's something in your life (a hobby, skill, relationship) that started small but grew over time with attention and care?

Discussion Questions

1. Lent can be compared to a season of preparing, as in with soil preparation for planting. What practical steps can you take to prepare your heart to truly hear God's Word, rather than becoming a "frequent flyer Christian" who just goes through the motions?
2. Read **Mark 4:1-2**. Why do you think Jesus chose to teach deep spiritual truths through simple stories instead of straightforward explanations? What does this reveal about how God wants to engage our hearts? Can you think of a story (Biblical or personal) that impacted you more deeply than a direct statement ever could have? Why do you think that story had such power upon you?
3. Read **Mark 4:2-12**. Jesus says, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." What do you think it means to have spiritual ears? What attitudes or conditions make someone *spiritually receptive* or *spiritually resistant* to God's truth?
4. Read **Mark 4:13-20**. Recap, by describing in your own words, the four soils as Jesus does. Which of the four soils do you most relate to in this season of your life? Why? What evidence of such do you see in your thoughts, habits, or responses to God's Word? Remember that what is worse than being in one of the soil states other than the good soil state, is staying there. What is one change you could make/pursue to give your soil the opportunity to change?
5. Re-read **Mark 4:16-19**. For these states of soil (rocky & thorny), the Word begins to grow but doesn't last. What are some common "rock" or "thorn" categories that can choke out spiritual growth? What are some you are, or have, personally dealt with? Does anyone have a testimony as to how the Lord ministered to you through such?
6. Re-read **Mark 4:3 & Mark 4:14**. Who is a farmer? What does it look like in everyday life to "scatter seeds" through both *words* and *actions*? How can we remain faithful in this obedience even when we don't see immediate results?

Concluding Question

Since the condition of the soil (people's hearts) affects the outcome, how can we balance intentional evangelism with trusting the Holy Spirit to bring growth? What helps you stay encouraged when others seem unresponsive?

Prayer

Let's collectively lift up Revive Wesleyan's Children Ministry, especially their upcoming Easter Outreach (Family Fun Night: The Easter Story). It's at the McKinley Campus (door 7) but open to all on Fri., 3/13 from 6-7:30pm.