

# Sermon Growth Guide

**June 30, 2024**

**Rest for the Weary - Rest Through Hearing**

**Mark 4:1-9**

**Key Verse:** Mark 4:9

“Then Jesus said, ‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.’”

**Big Idea:** Rest comes through hearing.



*rest for the weary*

## Foundations

Moving from the house setting from last week to a lake shoreline this week, we also move from narrative to parable. This Sunday we conclude our series, Rest for the Weary. Jesus is famous for the way he teaches in parable. In a parable, two images are elevated side-by-side for the purpose of clarification. This Sunday, Jesus places the kingdom of God next to the agricultural image of sowing seed in order to clarify aspects of the kingdom of God and the character of God.

Jesus' first word is, “listen up everybody!” And his final word is “whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” Kingdoms of the world are fought over and won by force. Kingdoms of the world come through muscle and might. The kingdom of God conquers through the word of grace and truth being heard, like a seed, growing silently but powerfully in the soil of the heart that has ears to hear. And it is this kingdom that will reign forever.

Right hearing changes everything. We will learn together that rest, true rest, comes through hearing. Spend time catching up with one another. Joys and sorrows. Hopes and dreams. Pray for one another. Pray that you understand this Scripture better and that the Holy Spirit empowers you to put it into practice.

## Understanding God's Word

Together, read Mark 4:1-9.

Continue on, also reading verses 10 – 20.

What is Jesus saying? What questions remain?

## Applying God's Word

Rest comes through hearing. We are unable to hear well, if at all, when something is blocking us. Even if Jesus is speaking, are we living in such a way that we can hear him speaking to us? In prayer and together in community, identify how you might change one thing about you (habits, lifestyles, thought patterns, etc) that would help you hear Jesus better.

## Witnessing God's Word

This week, witnessing turns on understanding people well enough to know how they are able to hear Jesus. Think of one person you are praying for to come to know Jesus. What's in their way? What kind of soil are they in? What one act can you do to help reshape their soil, that they might hear and receive the word of Christ into their heart? Pray for this person together with your sisters and brothers.