**Discussion Questions – Week 4 - Mark 4:1-34**

What stood out to you/was new to you from the sermon on Sunday?

When are times you’ve encountered strong responses to the gospel? Were you surprised by it?

Read Mark 4:1-20. In your own words paraphrase what the four soils are and what they represent.

How do you think Jesus intended the message of the four soils to be received by his disciples? (eg. A word of Comfort, a word of Warning, etc) How do you respond to the message of the four soils today?

Read the next 3 parables in Mark 4:21-32. Looking at one parable at a time discuss the following:

* What does this parable teach about the kingdom of God?
* What thoughts or attitudes might this parable encourage for followers of Jesus?
* Share where you have seen examples of this parable in your own life or the lives of others.

In Mark 4:10-12 (and also verse 23-25) it seems Jesus is explaining the reason for parables and the responses we might expect to see. Why does it seem that in Jesus’ ministry some hearts are hardened and others softened.

What has this study encouraged you to pray about, remember, focus on, or do?