



Sermon Discussion Guide

Good Seed
Grow Series

September 13, 2019

1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT

“It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.”

This series is designed to help you learn a clear, simple, Biblical plan for spiritual growth in your life. This message today centers on casting good seed in order to produce a good crop of blessing in your life. Good growth comes from good seed.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1 Corinthians 3:1-7 NLT

“Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. ² I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. And you still aren’t ready, ³ for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn’t that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren’t you living like people of the world? ⁴ When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you acting just like people of the world? ⁵ After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. ⁶ I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷ It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.”

1. What are some of the indications of immaturity from the scripture above? Why is maturity important? What is our part in the growth process?

Ephesians 4:13

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature, which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

2. Christian maturity is measured by the stature of Christ. What does that mean? Describe how that looks in a person’s life.

Genesis 1:26 ESV

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion...”

3. How many times have you heard the expression, “Under the circumstances...” What are some of the “circumstances” people live under? Discuss what it means to “have dominion”.

Matthew 13:24-25 NIV

“Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.”

4. How does the enemy work against us to choke out our good seed? What are his tactics? What are some of the weeds?

Matthew 13:26 NIV

“When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.”

5. How do we tell good seed from bad seed? What habits do we need to develop to be able to tell the difference and grow to maturity?

Diving Deeper (optional)

1. Discuss any additional Scripture that you may have thought of related to this idea of good seed.
2. Share any personal decisions you may have made in response to this message.

Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Suggestions for This Week’s Study

- Talk about growth being inevitable and maturity being optional.
- Discuss how responsibility opens the door to authority.
- What crops are you reaping that you want to change? How are you going to do that?
- What commitments are you making in order to grow?

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God’s wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God’s instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 6 weeks. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Consider God’s five purposes for the church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission and Worship, and make a plan to encourage your group members to growth and commitment in their weak areas.
- ✓ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn’t. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Talk It Over is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. We’ve designed it so it can be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson.
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Diving Deeper section or add additional Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- The questions are designed to be helpful in developing Bible literacy and spiritual maturity in our lives. You can help your group be aware of their needs in these areas by using these questions as a regular part of each discussion.
- Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. When discussing how they will apply principles, group members may state very general goals such as “I need to spend more time in prayer.” It is important for you to help people make goals that are very specific and commit to specific plans of action by asking, for example, “How are you going

to begin?" An example is to get up 25 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.

- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

- Pray daily for your group by name.