

Main Idea: The Kingdom of God is not what people expected but it grew larger than anyone could fathom.

Connecting

What is the largest tree you've ever seen? Where did you see it?

What are your experiences with gardening? Do you have a "green/brown thumb"?

Understanding

Read Mark 4:1-12. What is a parable? Why do you think Jesus taught in parables?

Read Mark 4:13-20. What words or phrases jump out at you or seem most significant?

Read Mark 4:26-34. What do you think Jesus is saying about the Kingdom of God?

Read Mark 4:30-34. What do you find encouraging or surprising about this parable?

Living

How is being committed to and intentional about our spiritual growth like any other discipline?

Read Mark 4:18-19: Of the three things that choke out God's word in these verses, which ones are the most problematic in *your* life? How do you keep those 'weeds' at bay?

Take time to pray for a specific believer or group of believers in another part of the world, and pray for the growth of the global church.

Next Week: Mark 4:35-5:20