



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Matthew 13:24-30; "The Kingdom of God is like a small beginning"

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

What is something that you have that is small, seemingly insignificant to you but is worth a great deal to you? Why is it important?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

Of the three illustrations that Dave used to illustrate how the Kingdom of God grows (like yeast)... Hudson Taylor and his impact on Christianity in China, how Jesus' treatment of the marginalized transformed Roman society, and culture, and Dr. Offit's change of heart about Christianity, which one impacted you most. Why? In what way is God asking you to be yeast?

In what ways can we be "short-sighted" in how God is at work in us and in the world?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Matthew 13:33-35] (if you like you can read the mustard seed alongside)

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

In the Parable of the Yeast, what did Christ compare the kingdom of heaven? (13:33)

How does yeast work? (13:33)

In addition to parables, how else did Jesus get His point across to the crowd? (13:34)

Why was Jesus' use of parables significant? (13:35)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what small or seemingly insignificant ways has God worked in your life?

How can a Christian be an agent like yeast in your home, workplace, neighborhood...etc?

What are some ways God might use a person to expand and multiply the gospel in a place where there is little Christian influence? How do some of ideas about how the gospel expands contradict the parable of yeast?

What are some little things we can do to make a big impact for Christ?

What does this passage say to those who don't feel talented, gifted, or brilliant?

In what ways has your Christian life grown to bless others?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?