

Seasons: Week 1 — "Summer"

CONNECT: Who was/is your favorite teacher? What characteristics make them a good teacher?

GROW:

1. **Read Matthew 13:1-9.** Jesus used this parable to teach His disciples that God sows the seed, but the human heart either receives or rejects the seed. And if you want the best kind of life, it starts by inviting Jesus to be your teacher and receiving the good things He wants to grow in your life. Have you invited Jesus to be your teacher? If yes, briefly explain how and why you did.

2. Read Galatians 6:7.

- a. What are you currently "planting" in your own life? Here are some guiding questions to help you answer this honestly:
 - i. What's the first thing you look at in the morning (Bible, sports, social media, news, etc.)? What do you look at the most? Check your screen time, your most watched TV shows, books, etc.
 - ii. What do you give most of your time to? What about your money?
 - iii. What do you find yourself dwelling on or thinking about most?
- b. Based on those answers, what harvest should be expected from what you're planting?
- 3. Challenge: As a group, spend a few minutes in silence. Have everyone pray for God to reveal one behavioral area that needs honest evaluation and radical transformation. When this time is up, have anyone who is willing share what God revealed.
- 4. **Read Romans 8:10-17.** The power we need to transform is the power we have! If you follow Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. How should this inform the way we seek change?
- 5. **Read Hebrews 12:11.** "Pain redeemed impressed me more than pain removed." -Phillip Yancey How has God redeemed you through the pain in your life?

PRAY: Praise God for the stories that were shared of life change and pain redeemed. Pray for the Spirit to bring about transformation in any weak areas that were revealed today.

NEXT: "Reading the Bible is the number one predictor of spiritual maturity." Allow those who have good rhythms with Bible reading to share their wisdom on what has worked for them. For those who don't currently spend much time in the Word, set a plan or rhythm you'd like to have in place and ask for accountability.