



Session 1: The Parable of the Sower

IN

Introduction

DISCUSSION:

A Picture Speaks a Thousand Words....

What memorable pictures or photos can you think of that evoke particular feelings?

This parable is full of symbols. What symbols, or creatures, or pictures might you choose to represent your country? Or yourself?

UP

Explore

READ Mark 4.3-20

- Can you think of other instances in scripture where 'sowing seeds', farming, gardens and crops are symbolic?
- Jesus taught in parables because his message, if said outright, would be considered politically incorrect. Can you identify which parts would have been so for the first hearers?
- Which parts of Jesus's ministry, teaching, death and resurrection might be considered politically incorrect today?
- Can you think of instances in your life when you have responded to the message of Jesus in different ways? What type of soil are you?
- What might a parallel picture-story for today look like?

OUT

Impact

"Is what we're saying [the message of Jesus] so subversive, so unexpected that we would be well advised to clothe it in dream language or code?"

Tom Wright

When you think about Jesus, is he meek and mild, or outrageously inclusive, or radically challenging? How does that make a difference to how we receive his message?

How might we challenge others to respond to Jesus's life-changing message?