

## Session 4

### ‘In the Dirt’



### Reading:

## Mark 4:26-29

### Introduction:

Are any of you green fingered? What have you learnt about growth in your garden house plants that is significant?

Have any of you failed to look after plants? What are you got wrong?

### WORD:

Jesus uses natural growth images to describe the Kingdom of God, which includes the work of God in our own lives. There are three elements to this parable, the seed, the soil and the sower (farmer). With parables, there is a simple story that Jesus tells, but hidden beneath the story there are kingdom principles that Jesus is trying to communicate. So let's examine the three elements to the story, and unpack a little as to what we may think they represent, and what is the principle that Jesus is wanting us to grasp.

### The Seed:

- *What does the seed represent? Where is it placed?*

### The Soil:

- *What does the soil represent? What is the role of the soil?*

### The Sower

- *What does that farmer know what to do? What does the farmer not know?*
- *What are the indicators of growth & when does the harvest happen?*

### Reflect:

*What are the Kingdom principles that Jesus is revealing?  
How do these principles relate to my following of Jesus?*

[My personal reflection: it seems that as we follow Jesus there are certain things that we know what to do - in this case ensure that we plant the Word of God into a place where it can grow in our lives. But, there are things we don't know. In this case how is that seed actually developing (it's in the soil, we don't see it!). To follow Jesus is a rhythm of obedience & faith. It's not about knowing more, but about doing what we know.... Then trusting in faith that our obedience, in time will bring a harvest]

### PRAYER:

What prayer response does today's reading and discussion invite?

### ACTION:

Is there something that God has told me to do, that I have neglected or procrastinated on? Decide to do it!