

THINK ABOUT IT



We encourage you to use this Sermon Based Guide in your 'Ohana Group

FAMILY MOMENT

In his sermon, Pastor Josiah talked about weeds. Weeds are useless and they steal from what is useful. Weeds steal sunlight, nutrients, and water from fruitful plants. In our lives, weeds can be anything that robs us of our relationship with God, things in our lives that are destructive, and things that kill our spiritual growth.

Discuss this analogy as a family.

Help your kids/teens identify any weeds in their lives. It could be video games/television, disobedience, or spending too much time around friends who make poor choices, etc. It could even be laziness or lack of interest in following God.

Parents, share openly and honestly about some weeds in your life, and what steps you are taking to have fewer weeds and grow deeper in your relationship with God.

Create an action step for your family, something you can all do together to keep the weeds out, and keep your family growing deeper and closer to God.

Pray together.

Get outside and pull some real weeds! Hands-on activities always serve as great reminders, and while you're out there you can continue the discussion or blast some worship music! Most importantly, enjoy your time together!

TALK ABOUT IT

Pastor Josiah described three types of soils that are bad (Mark 4:1-9) and warned us to not assume that we are good soil. They represent what can happen to a person after hearing the Word of God (seeds).

-The first is hard soil. These are people who hear the Word of God, but it doesn't change them. They are apathetic to the Word which cannot even sprout in their lives.

-The second is rocky soil. The seeds fall on shallow soil on a layer of limestone or other rocks but while the plants start out quickly, they also quickly die because they cannot take root and are scorched by the sun. These are people who receive the Word of God with joy and excitement, but soon become overwhelmed when they encounter trouble, doubt or persecution.

-The third is thorny soil. In this soil, seeds grow but soon, the thorny weeds of this world take over. Weeds can be things like worries about money, addiction, toxic friendships, repeated sin, or unhealthy thoughts.

- What kind of "soil" did the Word fall on when you were first saved?
- What kind of "soil" have you been experiencing in your walk today?

People with the bad soils were probably all walking **alone** in their faith. There was no one to help with their unbelief, doubts, hurts, and hardness of heart. The rocky soil was shallow so when life got hard, no one was there to hold a shade over them or to provide relief. The thorny soil was overcome by weeds (Satan) and again, there was no one to help them to fend off the attacks of the devil. **Faith dies in isolation.** We were not designed to live our Christian life in isolation!

- Do you tend to live a Christian life alone, or do you make sure others are around you in your walk?
- In what ways are you now connected with other Christians?

Archibald Hart, the dean of the psychology at Fuller seminary, has done research on early relational development of the brain, specifically, the "hard wiring" of the brain when it comes to relationships. He says, "We literally attach ourselves to significant people like some sort of emotional velcro. The hooks and fibers of our hearts and lives, they intertwine and connect with the mesh fibers of our loved ones, and we emotionally bond." He continues to say, "As human beings we cannot NOT bond to anything. We have to bond to something." That is the hard wiring of our brain: if you don't bond with others, you will bond to something else. It may be things like drugs, alcohol, shopping, pornography, etc. As human beings we all have to bond to something. Why not bond with a few others in an 'Ohana Group?

- Why do you think God "hard wired" us to connect with others?
- Do you feel you are growing in "good soil" (Mark 4:8) within your group?

LIVE IT

Hebrews 10: 24 – 25 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- Who are some "one anothers" you can practice "spurring on" this week?
- Spend some time in your group encouraging each other.