



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022



Take your Pulse

Do you like to garden? Why or why not?

What is the hardest part about getting something to grow?

Today's Reading

Mark Chapter 4

This chapter is full of stories that help to explain what the kingdom of God is like. Jesus' parables are stories with a point, often using common everyday items that go deeper the more you reflect on it. Some parables may make a particular point, and others are like allegories with symbolic meanings. Jesus uses parables to engage listeners and challenge what they believe to be true. This chapter introduces us to the parable of the Sower, A Lamp under a Bushel Basket, The Parable of the Growing Seed and the Parable of the Mustard Seed. So much can be learned from these stories and yet at the end of the chapter the disciples get caught in a storm with a sleeping Jesus and are terrified. From the beginning, we the reader have been told who Jesus is. However the disciples still do not understand that with Jesus, God is in their midst.



Start the Thinking

Does the parable in 4:26-29 reflect on what God does or what we do? How does this affect our belief in God?



Conversing with God

Dear Jesus,

Help our hearts be good soil and open to the seed of your word. Pull any weeds that get in the way and fertilize our lives with your love so we may live out the ministry you have called us to. Amen.



Be blessed

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

May the God of life who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen