

## *The Gospel of Mark: Session 4*

...the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (1:1)

### Parables of the Kingdom (Mark 4:1–34)

#### Basic Outline

- The Parable of the Soils (4:1–9)
  - The Purpose of Parables (4:10–13)
  - The Explanation of the Parable of the Soils (4:14–20)
- The Parable of the Lamp (4:21–25)
- The Parable of the Seed Growing (4:26–29)
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed (4:30–34)

#### Questions to Consider as You Read

What is your general impression of parables? Are they easy to understand or hard?

Jesus often uses the phrase, “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” What do you think that means?

Jesus gives his purpose in using parables in 4:11–12? Is Jesus making things clearer or cloudier? What’s your response to that?

Think about where we are in Mark’s Gospel. Briefly recap in your mind what we’ve seen so far (ex: kingdom announced, fame spreading, opposition growing, etc.). Why do you think Mark tells us these parables from Jesus at this point in his gospel?

What does the Parable of the Soils teach us about our evangelism efforts?

What’s the big idea of the Parable of the Lamp (4:21–25)?

What’s the big idea of the Parable of the Seed Growing (4:26–29)?

What’s the big idea of the Parable of the Mustard Seed (4:30–34)?

What do these verses teach us about God? How is God working to build His Kingdom?

How do these parables encourage you? How do they convict you?