

Lesson 1: Overview

I. INTRODUCTION (Isaiah 5:1-7)

To grow a garden, we need:

1) A _____ with _____ to plant

2) _____ that is prepared to receive the _____

_____ is the Divine _____

_____ is the _____

(Genesis 2:7 NIV) the LORD God formed the man from the **dust of the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

(Genesis 3:19 NIV) By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you **return to the ground**, since from it you were taken; **for dust you are and to dust you will return.**"

Lesson 1: Study / Discussion Questions

- 1) According to the Parable of the Sower, describe in your own words the first type of soil and what happens to the seed planted there.

- 2) PERSONAL: Think about the 3 current “soil mates” who influence your thoughts and opinions the most. How are they influencing you? What are their attitudes towards God?

- 3) PERSONAL: List and examine what you spend your time doing. Do all of these activities honor God? Circle the ones that don’t. Find an accountability partner (maybe someone in your group) to pray with you about weeding out the ones you circled.

- 4) PERSONAL: Consider going on a “Power” Walk with God every day this week. Use it as an opportunity to really talk with God as you walk. Share with your group what you experienced.

**Prepare for Next Week:
Rocky and Thorny Soil**

9) Read Matthew 13:5-7

A) What is the 2nd type of soil Jesus described?

B) What happened to the seed that fell on this type of ground?

C) What is the 3rd type of soil and what happened to that seed?

10) Read Matthew 13:20-21 and describe in your own words how people act whose hearts are full of rocky soil.

11) Read Matthew 13:22 and describe in your own words a person whose heart is full of weeds or thorns.

✝ 12) From your Quiet Time, what did you learn this week about what it means to be “fruitful?”

PERSONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any area of your life where you have become hardened and for His help to soften the soil of your heart.

Daily Quiet Time

“To Grow God’s Fruit”

God has commanded all of mankind to “be fruitful” and it is very important that we understand what it means to “grow” or “bear fruit.” During your quiet time this week, spend some time looking at verses that describe bearing fruit and meditate about what that means in your personal life as you seek to reach your full potential.

Follow these steps every day:

- 1) Read the suggested passages of Scripture.
- 2) Draw some type of fruit (grapes, apple, or banana, etc.) beside the word *fruit*, *fruitful*, or *garden* and circle any fruit of the Spirit mentioned i.e. *love, joy, peace, patience, faith*, etc.
- 3) How is the fruit described in each of the passages? Write down any commands or warnings given for a person to be fruitful?
- 4) Meditate about what you learn from God’s Word about bearing fruit.
- 5) Journal your thoughts concerning how these ideas apply to your life. Are you bearing God’s Fruit? If not, why not? What needs to change in your life? Does the soil of your heart need to be cultivated?

Day 1: Psalm 1:1-3, Proverbs 11:30