



who is Jesus? MARK THE GOSPEL OF

Discussion Questions Mark 4:1-34

1. Read Mark 4: 1-20.
What does it mean to harden your heart against God?
2. Read Roman 1: 28 - 2:5
In what ways do people harden their hearts against God?
How does this relate to the seed that fell on the path which the birds of the air stole?
Is there hope for these people? Explain.
How is the seed that grows up quickly and withers indicative of immature faith?
3. How does this relate to Hebrews 6:4-8? Is there hope for these people? Explain.
4. What are your thoughts on this quote from Francis Chan's book Crazy Love?
"My caution to you is this: Do not assume you are good soil.
I think most American churchgoers are the soil that chokes the seed because of all thorns.
Thorns are anything that distracts us from God. When we want God and a bunch of other stuff then that means we have thorns in our soil.
A relationship with God simply cannot grow when money, sins, activities, favorite sports teams, addictions or commitments are piled on top of it.
Most of us, have too much in our lives. As David Goetz writes, "Too much of the good life ends up being toxic deforming us spiritually." A lot of things are good by themselves but all of it together keeps us from living healthy, fruitful lives for God."
How can small groups or accountability partners help with cultivating weeds in our lives?
5. When the seeds of the gospel are sown in good soil, what are results?
How do we know we are fruitful or not?
6. Read Mark 4:21-34. Each of these three parables teaches us something about the kingdom of God. What general impressions do you get about God's kingdom based on these verses?
7. Who or what does the lamp represent in verses 21-22? In what ways do you hide the lamp?
How can you more effectively put it on a lamp stand?
8. Verse 24 says, "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more." What does this mean? How does it fit into the parable of the lamp stand?

9. Do you see value in Jesus? Is that the measure you use? How does that show in your life? And how will it be measured to you, and more?
10. What does the parable of the growing seed, in verses 26-29, mean? Is it encouraging to you? How so?
11. What does the parable of the mustard seed, in verses 30-32 mean? What does it tell us about God's Kingdom?
12. How is God's word growing in your life? How is God using you to plant God's word in the lives of others? Do you trust that He will cause growth if you plant the seed?