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THE CHURCH**

ST. LUCAS UCC

*Transforming lives
as the hands and feet of Christ*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

JUNE 16-17

“Seeds of the Invasive Kingdom”

By Rev. Eric Moeller

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Mark 4: 26-34; <https://bit.ly/2LYZcHW>

Big Ideas Raised

- Jesus spoke in parables to help explain the unexplainable and to shift our imaginations; to shift how we see God, ourselves, and others.
- Both parables Jesus uses to describe the Kingdom of God begin with seeds. In the first parable a person sows seeds, and they grow to bring a rich harvest, but such growth is seen as a mystery, highlighting the harvest of the Kingdom is a result of human partnership with God who brings the growth from what we sow. In the other parable, the tiny mustard seed is sown, and from it springs large branches that bring shelter for birds. The mustard plant, though, is also invasive, and unstoppably spreads where it desires, bringing shelter, food by its seeds, and healing through its medicinal properties. The Kingdom, too, may start from the tiniest of seeds, and spread in ways we can't imagine, bringing shelter, food, and healing.
- Michelle Studer, a Lindbergh Social Worker, joined Pastor Eric for a conversation where she expressed how she's witnessed seeds we've sown as a church growing and meeting the needs of our community through food assistance, funding for Lindbergh Lights the Way, collections for College Kick Start, and the rental of our parsonage to a family needing affordable housing. She then shared ongoing challenges.
- Given the challenges she named, what new seeds can we imagine planting, knowing that no seed is too small?

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Parables are often layered with meaning. There may be multiple ways to look at them. Do you see other possibilities for what the parables may be saying about the Kingdom of God?
- Michelle described some of the needs of our community that we are already working to meet, and others that exist. She also states that the needs are growing, and that some folks are surprised by the presence of such needs in south county. Did you hear anything that surprised you regarding the needs in our community?
- Pastor Eric spoke of our seeds being the gifts God has given us (be they material, our passions, skills, etc). What are the seeds you feel God has placed in your possession? What are your skills and passions? What do you love to do, and what are you really good at?
- What seeds can you imagine sowing as individuals or a church that could address some of the challenges Michelle named? If you have something to share, please send it to Pastor Eric!

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>