

## Mark / Chapter 4

### Short Summaries

The disciples ask Jesus to explain the parable of the sower, and Jesus teaches about the kingdom of God, saying that it is like a mustard seed that grows into a large tree.

The kingdom of God is like a seed that grows and spread, even though the farmer sleeps. The farmer represents Jesus and the seed is the word of God.

### Summaries

Mark 4 tells the story of Jesus teaching the crowd using parables. He explains the parable of the seed growing, the parable of the four soils, and the parable of the yeast. He also talks about the kingdom of God being like a treasure hidden in a field and like a pearl of great value.

Mark 4 tells the parable of the Sower, who scatters seed on the ground. Some of the seed falls on the path and is eaten by birds; some falls on rocky ground and grows quickly but then dies; some falls on thorns and is choked; and some falls on good soil and produces a crop.

### Application Questions

How can I tell if I am bearing fruit for God?

What does it mean that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed?

Why is it important to spread the gospel?

What does it mean to be a good soil for God's word?

How can I trust God when I am facing a storm in my life?

What does it mean to have a light on a stand?

What are some of the things that can prevent God's word from taking root in my heart?

How can I make sure that my light is not hidden?

### Exegetical Questions

What is the significance of the different types of soil in the parable of the Sower?

What is the significance of Jesus calming the storm?

What is the mustard seed in the parable of the mustard seed a symbol of?

How can we make sure that we are not being choked by the cares of this world?

What are the different ways that people can receive the word of God?

What does it mean that the seed grows silently in the parable of the growing seed?

What can cause someone to fall away from God?

What does it mean to have a lamp on a stand?

### **Observation Questions**

What does the oil in the parable of the lamp on a stand represent?

What does the "acting on the word" in the parable of the lamp on a stand represent?

What does the seed represent in the parable of the Sower?

What does the seed that fell on the rocks in the parable of the Sower represent?

What does the seed that fell among thorns in the parable of the Sower represent?

What does the seed that fell on good soil in the parable of the sower represent?

What does the lamp on a stand in the parable of the lamp on a stand represent?

What does the path in the parable of the sower represent?

### **Group Discussion Questions**

What do you think the seed that fell on the good soil represents?

What do you think is the overall theme or message of Mark 4?

Do you think Jesus was trying to say something specific to his disciples when he told the parable of the sower?

What do you think the seed that fell on the path represents?

State your favorite parable from Mark 4 and explain what you like about it.

What do you think the seed that fell on the rocky ground represents?

What do you think the seed that fell among the thorns represents?

Do you think we need to be careful about how we interpret parables? Why or why not?