



# Sustaining Faith

## **Week 2 – Deeper Faith**

*Week of 11/5*

**Mark 4:1-9, 14-20**

1. Try to read this story through the lens of the crowd. This was a largely agrarian society, and planting and harvesting were part of their everyday lives. How does that impact how you hear the story? Why did Jesus teach in parables like these?
2. What do you notice about the sower? Where did he sow the seed? Why?
3. What similarities do you see among the different soils? What differences?
4. Which type of “soil” seems to more prevalent in Orlando? Which type of soil are you most likely to identify with personally and why?
5. Read Psalm 1:1-3. How does the tree in verse 3 relate to the parable in Mark 4? Would you say that you are currently in season or out of season? What’s an example of fruit in your life currently or in the past?

6. Take a minute to encourage one another in your group. What are some fruits you've seen in others' lives over the past few months to a year?
  
7. Our first question pointed out that the seed (the Word) was sown on all types of soil. How does that relate to Jesus' ministry, Paul's ministry, and what does it say about our role as sowers? *Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 for deeper insight.*
  
8. In gardening, once the seed is planted there are multiple factors that affect growth: water, sunlight, nutrients, temperature, etc. If we want to have a deeper, more fruitful faith, what are some of the elements that affect our growth? You can include obvious answers but try to think deeper.
  
9. How would you use this parable to explain the Gospel? (*one hint: where does the power/authority lie in the parable?*)