



## House Church Study Questions

**Sermon: By Sean Stevenson-Douglas (President of Eston College)**

**Text: Various**

**Take some time to worship**

**Read Matthew 13:1-23**

**Discussion Questions**

**Icebreaker Question:**

**Question #1: It's easy to misunderstand what people say and mean sometimes. Because of this we tend to want to get clear explanations. After reading the above passage in Matthew ask yourselves why Jesus speaks in parables and what advantage there is to this way of communicating.**

Additional Question: What do you think could be gained in our church if we adopted the same way of communicating through parables? What do people have to do if the meaning of the message is somewhat veiled?

**Question #2: On Sunday Sean Stevenson-Douglas shared that when the seed of the word of the kingdom of God is planted in good soil then we should expect to see multiplication: of new people coming to know the Lord; of increased freedom from sin; increased mercy and grace toward enemies; healings; deepening love of God's Word. Talk about what your expectations are in terms of multiplication of the kingdom around you. What have your experiences been? What does your heart long for?**

Additional Question: Read 2 Timothy 2:2. Paul is talking about multiplication here. . .Share the gospel truths and then they share with others. How do you see this playing out in your world? What can you imagine are ways that this can become a reality in your spheres of influence?

**Question #3: Sean talked about shifting emphasis to a belief that each of us is invited into 'mission', the mission of sharing God's goodness with others. How does sit with you? Do you agree? What obstacles might stand in the way of you becoming a 'missionary' where you share the good things of God with others in your world?**

Additional Question: Go back to Matthew 13:1 that says "Consider the sower who went out to sow. . ." We all know that if we want a crop in the fall then we need to be intentional about sowing the seed. Consider Jesus and how He sowed. What kind of things did he do? Where did he do them? What are your thoughts on how this might affect the way in which we pursue the kingdom?

**Question #4:**

**Four 'soils':**

- Along the path: No understanding Devil snatches it away.**
- Rocky: Received but no root. Persecution causes falling away.**
- Thorns: Hears but worried about money and worldly cares, no fruit.**
- Received and understands. Produces much fruit.**

**Read James 2:22-25 and talk a little about how this teaches us about really understanding what Jesus is talking about in the parable of the sower/soils.**

#### **Invitation and Mission for this week**

**You are invited to Ask, Seek and Knock to discover what the Lord would want for you to understand better about your 'soil'. Do you think you are best represented by one of the soil described? Maybe you struggle with some aspects of one of them?**

**Purpose to ask the Lord to show you and then in prayer and in the word, to move into becoming the 'good' soil.**

#### **Pray for each other**