



# DIRT

## MESSAGE REVIEW

The parable of the sower teaches us that the kind of soil we have in our hearts determines the kind of growth we will see in our lives. We have a tendency to focus almost exclusively on the fruit above the surface in our lives, but there's nothing we will see above the surface that didn't start below. To experience change, we need to get to the root – the condition of our hearts.

## WARM UP QUESTION

What was your favorite mystery cartoon or TV show you used to watch growing up?

**1** Read **Luke 8:4-12**. Why do you think Jesus uses the word 'secret' (or mystery) about the Kingdom of God in verse 9? How can a mystery be known? How curious would you say you are about God's Word and growing spiritually?

**2** Read **Isaiah 55:10-11**. What does God compare His Word to in these verses? How do these verses relate to the parable of the sower in Luke 8? What do you think it means that God's Word never returns void/always produces fruit?

**3** Read **Nehemiah 8:1-12**. How does this worship service compare to worship services you've been a part of? What is the significance of the words 'understand' and 'understood' being repeated in this passage? Is understanding God's Word an intellectual or spiritual exercise? How do the people respond to hearing and understanding God's Word? Can you relate?

**4** Read **Psalms 1:1-3**. What stands out to you about the person described in this Psalm? What do they do and not do? What would it look like today to meditate on God's Word day and night or to delight in it?

**5** What part does a soft heart/fertile soil play in everything you've just read and discussed? Do you have any indicators in your life of a hard heart (cynicism, bitterness, unforgiveness, short fuse, resentment)? What are some practical ways you can ask God for help in tilling the soil of your heart?

## RESPOND

What have you learned about God from His Word? How is He asking you to apply it to your life? When will you apply it?

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