

DIRT

MESSAGE REVIEW

Dirt is a natural medium for growth. When Jesus tells the parable of the four soils, He isn't speaking about farming. He's talking about the condition of our heart. The story Jesus tells is an invitation to listen with new ears, with curiosity, and with a heart to truly hear what He has to say. Jesus didn't come to entertain the crowds. He came to announce the good news of a new kingdom – the kind of kingdom that's available to anyone who's willing to truly listen and understand.

WARM UP QUESTION

On a scale of 1-10, how much do you like solving puzzles? What is your favorite kind of puzzle?

1 **Read Luke 8:1-15.** Set the stage by describing everything that stands out to you in the first four verses. What message is Jesus preaching? Who is with Him and how is that revolutionary in and of itself? What do you imagine were the many different reactions of the large crowds that listened to Jesus?

2 Jesus launches into a parable. What do you think is the heart behind what He says at the end of verse 8 (i.e. Do you think He wants people to listen and understand)? Why, according to verse 10, doesn't Jesus make it easier? Talk about a time when you worked hard to understand something and what the payoff was at the end.

3 What do the disciples do in verse 9? Is it really all that complicated to listen and understand? Talk about your own experiences of listening to or understanding God's Word. Has it been hard? Easy? What part has a desire to understand played? Do you ask the Holy Spirit for help?

4 As we take a look at the first type of soil this week, describe what both the seed and the footpath represent in verses 5 and 11-12. What does this type of person look like in real life? Was there ever a time in your life when this described the soil in your own heart?

5 What is your history of listening to or hearing from God? When have you heard Him best? What kinds of things were mentioned in the message that you want to put into practice this week to hear from God better (i.e. asking, "What do you have for me?" instead of, "Can you do this for me?" – listening to learn, being curious, having a time and place to have a conversation with Him, etc.)?

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?

Encourage group members to read Daily Bible Reading on the church app or have it delivered to their inbox daily. Subscribe at tpcc.org/dbr. Use your group chat to check in on thoughts about these throughout the week!