

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Soil & Seed – The Keys to the Kingdom – Faith Is the Fertilizer

Speaker: Pastor Chad Everett

Scripture References: Mark 4:26–29, Galatians 6:9, Genesis 8:22, Hebrews 4:2, Romans 10:17

How to Use This Study Guide

This study is designed to help you engage deeply with God's Word—not just to hear it, but to plant it in your heart so it produces lasting fruit. Each day offers space to reflect, discuss, and apply what you're learning, allowing the Word to take root and grow within you.

Open your Bible for every question. Let Scripture be your teacher and guide, not opinions or surface understanding. Take time to write down what God shows you and pray through it. Use tools like the Blue Letter Bible app to explore the meanings of words, historical context, and cross-references. Build a rhythm of daily study and reflection—find a consistent time each day to read, listen, and meditate. Remember that ***growth happens over time as you faithfully plant and water the Word of God in your heart.***

This guide is for anyone hungry to grow. New Christians can use it to build a strong foundation in God's Word and learn how His Kingdom operates. Mature Christians will be challenged to go deeper in discipleship and fruitfulness. Jr. & Sr. High Students can find personal direction and identity in Christ through applying these truths. Families with Young Children can use the guide to read aloud, explore questions together, and learn how to walk with God as a family. Families with Teenagers can turn each section into meaningful discussion that strengthens faith and connection.

The Kingdom of God works by seed, not by need—and every day you open His Word, you're planting life that will grow and bear fruit in season.

Day 1 – The Kingdom Works by Seed, Not by Need

Daily Focus

The Kingdom of God doesn't operate by what we need, but by what we sow.

Today's Biblical Principle

God's system for growth and breakthrough works through the seed of His Word, not the expression of our need.

Today's Takeaways

- The Kingdom of God functions by seed, not by need.
- What we plant today determines the harvest we experience tomorrow.
- God's promises grow in the soil of our heart when we sow His Word intentionally.

Key Scripture

Mark 4:26–29 (NKJV)

"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how."

Quote of the Day — Chad Everett

"Too many people have been taught to believe that the Kingdom of God works by need when it actually works by seed."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

New Christians

1. Read **Mark 4:26–29** and describe what happens after the seed is planted. What does that show about how God's Kingdom works?
2. Look at **Galatians 6:7**. What promise does God make about sowing and reaping?

Mature Christians

1. Compare **Mark 4:26–29** and **Galatians 6:7**. What consistent truth do you see about cause and effect in God's Kingdom?
2. What Scripture could you plant as a "seed" for breakthrough in your current season?

Jr. & Sr. High Students

1. Read **Mark 4:28**. Which stage are you in—planting, waiting, or harvesting?

2. How can **Galatians 6:7** help you make better choices that lead to good fruit?

Families with Young Children

1. Read **Mark 4:26–29** together. What happens to the seed after it's planted?
2. How can your family plant God's Word this week—by praying, sharing, or showing kindness?

Families with Teenagers

1. Read **Galatians 6:7–9**. What encouragement does God give when we don't see results right away?
 2. How can your family keep planting faith instead of focusing only on need?
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Personal Application

Identify one area of your life where you've been focused on your need instead of God's Word. Find a Scripture that speaks to that area—your “seed verse.” Write it down and read it aloud daily this week. Every time you start to worry or complain, replace those words with your seed verse. Speak faith instead of frustration.

For Families with Young Children:

Let your kids help choose a “family seed verse.” Write it on a piece of paper, decorate it, and tape it somewhere you'll all see each day. Read it together at breakfast or bedtime and talk about what it means.

For Families with Teenagers:

Choose a “family seed verse” that connects with something your teens are facing—stress, identity, or relationships. Keep it visible on the fridge or group text it each day. Discuss how it applies in real situations at school or work.

Day 2 – Faith Is the Fertilizer

Daily Focus

Faith activates the power of the seed—it's what makes God's Word grow in our lives.

Today's Biblical Principle

The Word becomes fruitful when we mix it with faith. Believing God's Word causes it to take root and grow.

Today's Takeaways

- Faith is the fertilizer that brings God's Word to life.
- Hearing the Word starts faith; believing the Word matures it.
- When you combine the Word with faith, it produces supernatural results.

Key Scripture

Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV)

"For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."

Quote of the Day — Chad Everett

"Faith is the fertilizer—mix the Word with faith."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

New Christians

1. Read **Hebrews 4:2**. Why didn't the Word help some people?
2. According to **Romans 10:17**, how does faith begin and grow?

Mature Christians

1. How does **Hebrews 4:2** challenge you to move beyond hearing into believing?
2. What habits based on **Romans 10:17** can help you keep hearing and acting on the Word?

Jr. & Sr. High Students

1. Read **Romans 10:17**. What can you do each day to grow faith through hearing God's Word?
2. How does **Hebrews 4:2** warn you not to ignore what you learn at church or youth?

Families with Young Children

1. Read **Hebrews 4:2** together. What happens when we believe God's Word?

2. What is one way your family can show faith before you see the answer?

Families with Teenagers

1. Based on **Romans 10:17**, how can your family build a weekly rhythm of hearing God's Word together?
 2. What promise does **Hebrews 4:2** give when the Word is mixed with faith?
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Personal Application

Faith grows through practice. Pick one Scripture from this study that you've heard before but haven't acted on. Read it, believe it, and take one small step of obedience this week that aligns with that Word. If the verse says "forgive," forgive. If it says "trust," trust. Don't just read the Word—respond to it.

For Families with Young Children:

Each night, have one person read your "faith verse" aloud, then share one way you lived it out that day. Celebrate small steps—acts of kindness, choosing peace, sharing, or forgiving.

For Families with Teenagers:

Encourage everyone to pick one verse to live out this week. Talk about what obedience to that verse might look like—showing kindness, holding integrity, choosing patience. End your week by sharing what you learned or noticed changed.

Day 3 – The Soil of the Heart

Daily Focus

Our hearts determine how deeply God's Word can grow.

Today's Biblical Principle

A soft heart welcomes the Word and produces lasting fruit. A hard heart resists it and stays barren.

Today's Takeaways

- The Word of God won't grow in hard, distracted, or unrepentant soil.
- We must prepare our hearts daily to receive truth.
- God's Word transforms us when we let it take root.

Key Scripture

Luke 8:15 (NKJV)

“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

Quote of the Day — Chad Everett

“The seed will do nothing until it gets in the soil.”

Discussion Questions

New Christians

1. Read **Luke 8:15**. What kind of heart produces lasting fruit?
2. How does **Psalms 119:11** show the importance of storing God’s Word in your heart?

Mature Christians

1. How do **Luke 8:15** and **Psalms 119:11** together describe the posture of a fruitful heart?
2. What daily practice could help you “till” your heart to stay receptive to God’s Word?

Jr. & Sr. High Students

1. Read **Luke 8:15**. What does a “good and noble heart” look like in your everyday life?
2. How can memorizing **Psalms 119:11** help you resist temptation?

Families with Young Children

1. Read **Luke 8:15** together. What makes soil “good”?
2. How can you prepare your hearts for God’s Word before prayer or bedtime stories?

Families with Teenagers

1. Look at **Luke 8:15**. What things might block God’s Word from growing in your heart?
 2. How does **Psalms 119:11** show a practical way to guard your heart as a family?
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Personal Application:

Our hearts determine how deeply God's Word can grow. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where your heart is soft and welcoming—and where it's distracted or hard. Write down what He reveals. Then plant a *Word seed* (Bible verse) in those areas. Memorize it, speak it, and pray it.

If He shows you something blocking growth—like unforgiveness or worry—repent and remove it. If He shows something growing—faith, obedience, or love—keep watering it through His Word and worship.

For Families with Young Children:

Talk about how your hearts are like gardens where God's Word grows. Read Luke 8:15 and Psalm 119:11 together. Ask God to show any “hard soil” in your hearts—like arguing, disobeying, or hiding the truth—and to make your hearts soft again.

Pick one verse to “plant” this week. Say it together each day and thank God for helping it grow.

For Families with Teenagers:

Read Luke 8:15 and Psalm 119:11 as a family and talk about what keeps your hearts soft or distracted. Each person can share one area to grow in this week.

Choose a verse to plant and water it daily—write it, pray it, or speak it. End by praying together for hearts that stay soft and ready for God's Word to produce lasting fruit.

Day 4 – The Process: Seed, Time, and Harvest

Daily Focus

God's Kingdom operates through a divine process—seed, time, and harvest.

Today's Biblical Principle

Spiritual growth requires patience and perseverance. Time tests our trust in God's promise, but His process never fails.

Today's Takeaways

- God's Kingdom always follows the order: seed, time, harvest.
- Waiting seasons are not wasted—they're working seasons.
- Faith holds steady between planting and reaping.

Key Scripture

Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Quote of the Day — Chad Everett

“From seed to sickle—stay in the process.”

Discussion Questions

New Christians

1. Read **Galatians 6:9**. What does it say about the reward of not giving up?
2. How can you stay faithful while waiting for God’s promise to grow?

Mature Christians

1. Reflect on **Genesis 8:22**. How does this verse reveal God’s consistent order in creation and faith?
2. How have you seen growth happen “in time” when you kept sowing the Word?

Jr. & Sr. High Students

1. Read **Galatians 6:9**. What do you think “due season” means?
2. How can you keep believing when answers take longer than expected?

Families with Young Children

1. Read **Galatians 6:9** together. What does “don’t give up” mean for you as a family?
2. How can you celebrate small signs of growth this week?

Families with Teenagers

1. Look at **Genesis 8:22** and **Galatians 6:9**. How do these verses connect God’s promises to time?
 2. What are practical ways to encourage each other during the “waiting” seasons?
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Personal Application

Planting God's Word happens through intentional action. Take today's Scriptures—Genesis 8:22 and Galatians 6:9—and plant them by reading, saying, writing, and praying them. Don't rush the process; keep watering your seed with faith every day this week.

For Families with Young Children:

Read Galatians 6:9 together at mealtime and talk about what it means to "not give up." End by thanking God for something He's growing in your family.

For Families with Teenagers:

Choose one of this week's verses to memorize as a family. Talk about what it means in your daily routines, school, and friendships. At the end of the week, share how you saw God working, even in small ways.

Day 5 – Don't Ring the Bell

Daily Focus

Endurance keeps us rooted in the Word when we want to quit.

Today's Biblical Principle

The enemy tempts us to quit before we reach the harvest, but faith gives us strength to finish strong.

Today's Takeaways

- Perseverance leads to breakthrough.
- God is faithful in the waiting and the weary seasons.
- Don't ring the bell—keep believing, keep sowing.

Key Scripture

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Psalms 126:5–6 (NKJV)

"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Quote of the Day — Chad Everett

“Don’t ring the bell. I’m raising up believers, sons and daughters in this hour that will not quit on their marriage, will not quit on their kids, will not quit on their job—don’t quit, don’t give up, keep believing.”

Discussion Questions

New Christians

1. Read **Galatians 6:9** again. What promise gives you strength to keep going?
2. What steps can you take to keep trusting God when you feel weary?

Mature Christians

1. Read **Psalms 126:5–6**. What do these verses teach about sowing in tears and reaping in joy?
2. How can you model perseverance for those around you who are struggling?

Jr. & Sr. High Students

1. Read **Galatians 6:9**. What helps you keep your faith when life feels hard?
2. What does “don’t ring the bell” mean for you personally?

Families with Young Children

1. Read **Psalms 126:5–6**. What does it mean to “plant seeds” even when we’re sad?
2. How can your family remind each other that God always finishes what He starts?

Families with Teenagers

1. Read **Galatians 6:9** together. What does it mean for your family to “not lose heart”?
 2. How can you help one another stay strong and hopeful through long seasons of waiting?
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Personal Application

Take a few moments to ask God where you've been tempted to give up. Write that area down, then pray over it, surrendering it back to Him. Commit to keep sowing His Word and trusting His timing. If you've been growing weary, share that with someone and ask them to stand in prayer with you. Don't ring the bell—God is still working.

For Families with Young Children:

Each night this week, say one thing you're thankful for that God is doing, even if it's small. Pray together, thanking Him that your family will not give up.

For Families with Teenagers:

End your week with a family talk about perseverance. Read Galatians 6:9 together and share one area each of you will keep believing for, even when it's hard.
