

## Luke 8

Why talk in parables?

How does Jesus handle our questions?

Why do some people understand and others don't?

## What does it take to understand what Jesus is saying?

1. You need to know who is telling you the **truth**.

John 8:12; John 14:6; Luke 8:16-18

2. Have a desire to **know** the truth.

Hebrews 4:12-13

3. Have a willingness to **share** the truth.

Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-36; Matthew 5:43-48; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:11-22

4. You must put into **action** the truth.

James 1:22-25

5. Let others help you **grow** in the truth.

John 4:35-38; Galatians 5:22-23

## NEXT STEPS

*Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a Life Group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.*

### MY STORY

This week we looked at finding meaning and understanding in the truth of Jesus' words recorded in the Bible.

Have you struggled at times to understand what the Bible is saying?

Has lack of understanding discouraged you from studying the Bible?

How do you think studying the Bible together in Life Groups can help?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Jesus' first parable, the seeds sown are the same, but the soils are different. How are they different?

2. Jesus himself interprets this opening parable. What is his main point (vv. 11-15)?

3. As the crowds grow, Jesus increasingly teaches in parables. He gives his reason for this in verses 8b-10. How is the use of parables effective in testing a listener's sincerity?

4. Jesus' second parable of the lighted lamp on a stand reinforces his teaching in the first (vv.16-18). Consider your habits of listening to God's truth.

What helps you to retain it and persevere in it?

Do you listen and act?

How can your willingness to share the truth shine the light of understanding into other people's lives?

### **Doing Life Together**

Consistently gathering together with a small group of people (Life Groups) is a key step in understanding and acting on the word of truth. As a group meets, there are specific actions and attitudes that help a group thrive and people connect. What is the affect of these verses when you put the Word into action in your group?

Proverbs 15:23

Proverbs 18:1

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 4:29-32

James 1:19

Building meaningful relationships thrive on participation (action). Are you one of those who could share a little more so people know what's going on or talk a little less giving others a chance to speak?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

Looking back at this week's teaching and study in regards to understanding the truth, was there one point or statement you'd like to remember and apply?

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### **PRAYER REQUESTS**