



Week 1– How to Drift from God

Open

What misconceptions do non-Christians have about Christianity?

Explore

Read Matthew 13:1-23

What kind of stories did Jesus use to teach the crowds? (13:3)

Into what various places did the seed fall? (13:4-5)

Which seed ended up sprouting and bearing fruit? Why? (13:8)

To whom did Jesus direct His story about the four soils? (13:9)

How did Jesus defend His use of parables? (13:11-13)

Why did Jesus say the disciples were blessed? (13:16-17)

Whom did Jesus liken to seed along the path? Why? (13:19)

According to Christ, who is like the seed sown on rocky soil? Why? (13:20-21)

What kind of people were compared to seed sown among the thorns? Why? (13:22)

Of whom is the fruitful seed a picture? How? (13:23)

Reflect

How involved are you in "sowing the seed" of the good news?

What kind of soil would you say you are at this point in your life?

What circumstances have a tendency to scorch your faith and cause it to wither?

Next Steps

Here are some specific things you can do this week to take a step toward living life with the margin God intends for your life.

There are a variety of ways to lose our focus on God including: neglecting time with God, blaming God, hanging around bad influences, giving into temptation, loving the world more than God, and if all else fails, faking it. What is the one area where you feel the most vulnerable right now? What do you sense God is wanting to do in that area of your life?

Prayer Tips

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 11:13 and Hebrews 2:2. Ask God to strengthen your faith as you fight off Satan's daily attacks.

Day 2: Read Matthew 13:1-23. Ask God to show you specific promises in scripture that will strengthen your relationship with Him and defend against Satan's attacks.

Day 3: Read Psalm 63:1. Thank God for loving you unconditionally.

Day 4: Read James 1:14-15. Ask God to help you live in His strength and not your own when it comes to facing the temptations in your life.

Day 5: Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. Ask God for wisdom in the relationships in your life and to bring other Christ followers into your life that will encourage you as you encourage them.