

## DAY 3

Matthew 13: 1-23

Have you ever tried to grow a garden? If you have then you have experienced the process of turning the soil. A process that is done to deepen and loosen hard dry soil and to remove old roots and rocks. It's a process known to wake the soil in preparation for planting, a process done long before the seeds are placed in the ground.

Growing up in a farming community this was a seasonal passage that indicated we were moving away from the dead of winter where the soil laid in rest, into the life giving season of spring where seeds would be planted and we would soon begin to prepare for harvest.

This is what I think about when I read Matthew 13.

*"You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them."*

As we establish a permanent presence with Jesus and we continue to follow him, we are part of the much needed experience of turning the soil. We begin to have eyes to see the goodness before us, hear where God is speaking to us and our hearts begin breaking for the broken, hurting places that God has planted us. We experience a confidence (a firm trust), in who God is and the great work that is being done in us, through us and around us.

Are there places where you need to experience the turning of the soil? What does it look like to respond with open eyes, open ears and an open heart?

Where are you rooted?

## DAY 4

Matthew 13:44-45

Think of the most valuable thing in your life. Is it your car? A piece of jewelry? Or something worth far more? Now imagine this valuable thing is taken away. What lengths would you go to recover that item? What would you be willing to give up to regain possession of it?

Now multiple that by ten. No, make that ten times ten. Whatever answer you get will still not be worth the value of salvation in Jesus. This gift is priceless. So much so that God knew there would be no way for any human to be able to afford such a price. So what did our most loving God do?

He made the gift of salvation absolutely free. Yet, we know that it's far more valuable than anything on earth.

Remember how you felt when you first came to salvation? Think of how many others want the exact same thing but are looking in the wrong places. That valuable gift they so desperately seek, the one true thing that is free for the taking. Now go tell them.

Salvation in Jesus isn't something that needs to be buried or hidden. There is plenty of salvation for all to enter the Kingdom of God. They just need someone to tell them about it.

*Thank you to Rachael Gaskin, Laura Zimmerman, Patti Peters and Amy Newman for writing the Rooted prayer guides!*

PERMANENT  
-presence-  
CREATES  
CONFIDENCE

to accomplish our

-kingdom-  
MISSION

ROOTED  
IN CONCORD AS IN HEAVEN



PRAYER GUIDE  
WEEK 4

# Celebration Sunday!

## March 11

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. . . . And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." [Philippians 1v3-6 & 9-11]*

Take a day toward the end of this week and spend time in praise. So much of our prayer life is spent asking, repenting or saying thank you. It's easy to forget to spend time simply praising God.

We are in awe of how the Holy Spirit has worked in the hearts and lives of One Life Church over the last month. He has definitely begun a good work. There is a definite partnership in the gospel. There is evidence of love abounding more and more as our hearts are burdened for those around us. You can't help but see the fruit! Do you know what kind of trees bear good fruit? The ones that are ROOTED. *"To the glory and praise of God."*

## How to use this guide

Dig: Pray that God opens your heart to be receptive. Read the scriptures and thoughts.

Declare: What key words or phrases grab your attention? What's the good news here?

Discern: Ask God to show you why this is this good news for you today?

Do: How do I apply this good news today?

### DAY 1

Matthew 6:9-10

The Lord's prayer is familiar to most of us. It's sometimes my fall back when I don't know what to pray. On weeks when evil unleashes unspeakable hurt in the world, I turn to these verses and this prayer. "YOUR kingdom come, YOUR will be done HERE as it is in heaven."

Then I'm reminded of multiple promises. *"I will send you a helper" [John 14v16]*. His kingdom has already come, IN US. Instead of Jesus staying here in one body healing only what he could physically touch, he left and multiplied himself in us. This is the kingdom come, *"Christ in you (us), the hope of glory" [Colossians 1v27]*. We have been empowered. *"His divine power has given us EVERYTHING we need for life and godliness" [2Peter 1v3]*. The church is God's Plan A for His will being done here as it is in heaven. And there is no Plan B. He is so confident in His Plan A, us, that there is no back up plan.

If this is true, what is your kingdom calling?

*"In view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." [Romans 12v1-2]*

### DAY 2

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

God empowers us all. He has given each of us a set of unique gifts, unique strengths and unique passions – yet he empowers us all to serve his kingdom. This passage truly blows my mind because it shows how truly different we all are, but how God is able to use all of our differences to show love to the world. We are all unique and we are all called. We are unified through God and we are all given confidence to accomplish our kingdom calling. We have not been called by accident – we have been intentionally called to shape tomorrow.

You are empowered. Take the confidence that God gives and go make a difference. Go love those around you and go remember that we are here to show God to those around us. No matter where we are – we are called.