



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

The Parable of the Growing Seed

Preached by Jon Egan

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon from Mark 4:26-29, Pastor Jon walks through the Parable of the Growing Seed, drawing a sharp contrast between the world's promises of quick results and the kingdom way of patient, faithful seed-scattering. He challenges us to recognize how the modern attention-economy is reshaping us into consumers who expect instant outcomes, while Jesus calls us to a slower, hidden, and deeply trusting way of life with God.

The sermon unfolds four key movements: we must scatter seed (speaking and living truth); we are not in control of the growth; God works in ways we cannot see (often underground and over long periods of time); and ultimately, God's work brings a true harvest. Pastor Jon anchors the message in the story of Jesus Himself, who, as the Word and the Truth, was buried in the earth and rose again, producing the greatest harvest in history.

Key Passages

- Mark 4:26-29
- Philippians 4:8
- John 9:25
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- Psalm 28:7

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come to you today as a group of people who are often tired, distracted, and tempted to demand quick results. We ask that you quiet the noise around us and within us. Open our hearts and minds to what you want to speak to us today. May we not simply discuss ideas but encounter you in a fresh way. Holy Spirit, have your way in this room. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one thing you have tried to grow, build, or develop that took much longer than you expected? How did that experience make you feel along the way?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Jon described the modern world as an 'attention economy' that is slowly deforming us away from Kingdom values. In what ways have you personally felt the pressure to seek quick results in your spiritual life or in areas where you are trusting God?
2. The sermon emphasized that we have a role in scattering seed, but we are not in control of the growth. How do you personally navigate the tension between doing your part and releasing control to God?
3. Pastor Jon encouraged us to take inventory of the 'seeds' we are scattering through our thoughts and words. What kinds of thoughts or words do you find yourself repeating most often, and how do those align with the truth of Scripture?
4. Philippians 4:8 calls us to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. What is one specific truth from Scripture that you could begin scattering more intentionally over your life or the lives of those around you?
5. The man born blind in John 9 could only say, 'I was blind, but now I see,' and 'I don't know, it was the man they call Jesus.' Have you ever experienced something God did in your life that you simply could not explain? How did that shape your faith?

6. The story of John the Little watering a dead stick for three years before it bloomed is a striking picture of obedience without visible results. Is there an area of your life where you feel like you are watering a dead stick? What keeps you going, or what makes it hard to continue?
7. Pastor Jon said, 'Too many bail before the harvest.' What do you think causes people to give up on trusting God before they see the fruit? What has helped you or could help you stay faithful during long seasons of waiting?
8. The sermon closed with the reminder that Jesus Himself lived this parable: buried in the earth yet rising to produce the greatest harvest in history. How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope for the buried or seemingly dead areas of your own story?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, choose one area of life where you have been anxious, discouraged, or tempted to give up on God's work. Write down one specific truth from Scripture that speaks directly to that situation. Speak it out loud every day this week, scatter it in prayer, and then practice resting rather than striving. At the end of the week, reflect on how intentionally scattering that truth affected your perspective and your peace.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- We must scatter seed by speaking and living truth. Our thoughts, words, and actions are seeds with real power, and we are called to scatter Kingdom truth over our lives and the lives of others rather than rehearsing fear, doubt, or complaint.
- We are not in control of the growth. Just as the farmer goes to sleep after scattering seed, we are invited to rest and trust God rather than striving to manufacture outcomes we were never meant to control.
- God works in ways we cannot see, often underground and over long periods of time. The most significant spiritual growth happens hidden from public view, and patience and obedience are required to see it through.
- Buried does not mean dead, and dead does not mean finished. The story of Jesus, buried and risen, is the ultimate proof that what looks like an ending in our lives may be the beginning of something we cannot yet imagine.
- God's faithfulness brings a real harvest. When the time is right, we get to participate again by gathering what God has grown, whether that looks like a prodigal returning, a heart opening to Jesus, provision arriving, or revival breaking out.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, Thank you for this time together and for the reminder that you are always working, even when we cannot see it. We confess that we are often impatient, anxious, and tempted to dig up the seeds before they have had time to grow. Forgive us for the moments we have trusted our own strategies more than your faithfulness. As we leave today, help us to scatter truth boldly, rest in your care deeply, and trust your timing completely. For every buried dream, every unanswered prayer, and every season that feels like nothing is happening, remind us of the empty tomb and the harvest it produced. You are the God who works in ways we cannot see, at a pace we cannot control, for a harvest we cannot yet imagine. We trust you. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**