

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Andy Rauschkolb, pastor to young adults, continued in our series Building a Life That Matters with a focus on spiritual growth. Spiritual growth doesn't just happen in us. Healthy growth requires being planted in God, cultivating growth, and trusting God with the growth. This foundation will lead producing fruit, or living out our faith in ways that lead people to know Jesus, and bring glory to God. Jesus said it is by the fruit our lives produce that will show we are his followers. While we aren't ultimately in control of our spiritual maturity, (that's the work of the Holy Spirit), we are responsible for cultivating it.

## SCRIPTURE

### LUKE 8:4-9, 11-15

<sup>4</sup> One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: <sup>5</sup> "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. <sup>6</sup> Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

<sup>11</sup> "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. <sup>12</sup> The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. <sup>13</sup> The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. <sup>14</sup> The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. <sup>15</sup> And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

### JOHN 15:4-8

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

## **GALATIANS 5:22-23A**

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. 1. What stood out from Andy's message?
  
2. Read Luke 8:4-9, 11-15. What are the various soils and what do they represent?
  
3. Read John 15:4-8. How does this passage relate to the parable of the soils?
  
4. Read Galatians 5:22-23a. What do you learn about the fruit in our lives?
  
5. Consider the passages as you answer the following:
  - a. Where are you be planted? Are you growing healthily or unhealthily spiritually?
  - b. How can your personal spiritual growth be cultivated?
  - c. How can healthy growth be achieved in community?
  - d. What can you trust God to do in your life?
  
6. How can we pray for you?
  
7. If you have time, encourage one another in the fruit you see in their lives.

## **PRAYER**

Ask God to reveal anything that is holding you back in your spiritual growth – misplaced priorities, distractions, commitment, etc. Pray for the next right step to become clear, and commit to taking it, to take personal responsibility for growing in your faith and trusting God to produce the fruit that will prove you are his follower.

