

AgGROWculture - Seeds and Soil LifeGroup Study

Welcome back to your group! We will not be taking any breaks in our groups for this series, but we know that summer is a busy travel time please keep in touch with your leader if you are going to miss!

BIG DADDY DAYS June 16th - This event will feature free food and drinks, inflatables for kids and adults, and all sorts of back yard games. We have planned this event as an outreach to men so invite ALL the men in your life it all starts June 16th at 5:00 at the Wallace Building. Hope to see you there!

READ: Matthew 13:1-9

Watch the Video:

Tonight we will be comparing the properties of actual soil with the spiritual properties of the soil of our hearts.

Jere said that Sweet Potatoes will grow just about anywhere, The Gospel is similar in that it will grow where it's planted. What was the condition of your heart the first time you heard about Christ? What helped your roots to go down deep in Him?

Many times we think that we have to come from strong Christian families with very deep, rich soil in our heritage but not all of us come from that. Is there anyone in the group who was or is the first Christian in their family? How has God helped build the soil up in your life?

We so often want to spend all our time on the mountain top, but none of the highest mountains have any trees or much soil at all. Jere said it is good to plant in the valley because the soil is usually good and there are fewer rocks. How has God used times in the valley to enrich your spiritual walk?

This morning Kelly identified 3 rocks that tend to keep our soil shallow as Lack of Connection, Lack of knowledge, and Lack of Discipline. Which is the hardest rock for you to pick? What are other rocks that might be getting in the way?

Jere said that ideal soil is deep, loose, and has plenty of the proper amendments of manure, organic material, and sand. God desires for us to grow our roots DEEP into Him.

READ: Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this reason I kneel(A) before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches(B) he may strengthen you with power(C) through his Spirit in your inner being,(D) 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts(E) through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted(F) and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints,(G) to grasp how wide and long and high and deep(H) is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge(I)—that you may be filled(J) to the measure of all the fullness of God.(K)

The soil of our hearts needs to be “loose” for the seed of the Gospel so that it's roots can go deep. What are some signs that a believer has truly allowed the roots of the Gospel to go deep in their lives?

Jere said that one key to good pest control in your garden was to have a vigilant cat. What areas of our lives require the most vigilance today? Make and prioritize a short list.

How are you letting others help you keep vigilant?

READ: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:

10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Jere said that another way to deal with pests is to over plant rather than relying on just one or two plants. How does this core relate to our spiritual lives?

READ: Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (A) 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice (B) against my adversary.'

4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" (C)

6 And the Lord (D) said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out (E) to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man (F) comes, (G) will he find faith on the earth?"

Jere said that weeds impact a garden negatively because they grow faster and out compete good crops for water and other nutrients. Weeds can even cause the loss of the whole crop if not kept in check. What are the major weeds in the Christian life today?

Jere said weeds need to be controlled by any means you can. What has helped you remove the spiritual weeds in your life?

Are there any means of weed control that go too far?

READ: Matthew 13:24-30

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like (A) a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

28 "'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

29 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Does this passage change your mind about spiritual weed control? How can you be careful not to uproot the Wheat, but also eliminate the weeds?

Discussion: Jere talks about crop rotation and resting the land, both practices which can be read about in the Bible (Leviticus 19:23-26, and Leviticus 25). Why do you think God designed rest to be such a big part of what we need to function?

Jere talked about how poorly drained soil leads to dampness and disease in the roots of a plant. The reason for this is that there is no exchange of water. As Christians we know that Jesus is the water of life, but that water is not meant to be stored up. What happens to us spiritually when there is no exchange of Jesus going on in our lives?

Who do we need to be “exchanging the Water of Life” with?

What are three things you can do this week to better tend the soil in your heart?

Take time to close in prayer.