



SESSION 1: "EARS TO HEAR"

February 15, 2017

"Some [seed] fell on good earth and came up with a flourish, producing a harvest exceeding her wildest dreams. Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

Mark 4:8, The Message

flourish: To be fully functioning and thriving in that particular place where you have the _____ for Christ on this planet.

The Parable of the Soils:

"sower" = _____
"seed" = _____
"soil" = _____

4 Soils – 4 Hearts

- ♥ The trodden path = _____ heart
- ♥ The rocky ground = _____ heart
- ♥ The thorns & weeds = _____ heart
- ♥ Good soil = produces something _____.

What makes "good soil" good? (Mark 8:20)

1. _____ the Word
2. _____ the Word
3. Bears _____ far beyond what was sown

Distractions:

THE GATHERING OF WOMEN

GATHER »»»→ TEACH »»»→ EQUIP »»»→ FLOURISH »»»→

LIFE – ON – LIFE:

Intentional Gospel-Centered Discipleship

❖ GATHERING TOGETHER:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42, 46-47

BE INTENTIONAL: *Never underestimate the power of a personal invitation!*

- Invite a friend to for a cup of coffee or tea at your home or local coffee shop, or to go for a walk... Maybe 2 or 3 of you, gather on your lunch break, or for dinner. Pray for your time together. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you, and let Him.
- Gather friends together (believers and seekers) for community and conversation around the person of Jesus Christ and His Word; sharing life, sharing your hearts, stirring up one another to love and good works, praying for one another to grow to love Jesus more and more. Be yourself. Be available. Be open. Be willing to risk. Be ok with not having all the answers. Be committed to this as a lifestyle. Have fun!!

❖ READ THE SCRIPTURES: **Mark 4:1-9 (Compare with- Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)**

- What is the main thing that you notice in this passage? Not what you think it says or mean- but what is actually happening in the scene.
- Make two more observations in this passage: what do you see?
- What is Jesus is saying to you in this parable?

❖ HAVE THE CONVERSATION: **God wants our attention.**

- What's your favorite time of day, and why?
- What are the 3 biggest and noisiest distractions in your life?
- What are 3 practical ways you can eliminate those distractions?
- Keep in mind 1 or 2 Scriptures to help encourage one another with. (i.e.- "Turn my eyes away from what is worthless! Revive me with your word!" Psalm 119:37)

❖ 21 DAY CHALLENGE: **Eliminate to concentrate. Disconnect to reconnect.**

We want to become women who have "ears to hear". But in order to really hear we have to eliminate much of the noise that is vying for our attention. SO- here's your challenge for the next 3 weeks, 21 days:

1. Eliminate reading devotionals (books, emails) and just read your Bible. For 4 weeks...just let God's Word alone speak to you. **Reading plan suggestions:** read a Proverb a day; read through Psalm 119 (roughly 7-8 verses per day); read through the Four Gospels.
2. Disconnect from all forms of social media and limit your use of technology to work-related activities. It's a life-changer!! And you're gonna get a lot more of your life back!
 - Keep notes about how you feel physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually
 - Take note of any difference in your time and productivity during the day/week
 - Anything else you notice...

❖ #SHOWHERHOW

- Share with a friend how you spend daily time in God's Word. Suggestion: #showherhow you use a daily Bible reading plan on your smart phone app or other device. #showherhow to take one verse, think it through and apply it to her circumstances.