

Friday

Please read Luke 8:15 & James 1:22-24. Jesus gives us four steps to spiritual productivity in verse 15:

“...hear the word...”: The first step, this means to **take it in**.

“...retain it...” This means to let it sink in, **think it through**.

“...by persevering...” This means to make it a habit, to **keep it up**.

“...produce a crop.” This means the goal of hearing God’s word is to **live it out**.

Write down practical ways you can do each of these this coming weekend.

For your prayer time today, write down a prayer describing the type of relationship you long to have with Him. Also, take some time to write down at least ten things that you are thankful for!

Saturday

Please be sure you’ve finished all the devotions this week and have memorized the memory verse. As you pray today, ask God to continually “turn the soil” of your heart so that you will be receptive to His words and works in your life. Pray for the services this weekend — that we’ll grow together as a church and be effective at reaching out to our community.

Prayer Updates

Hospitalized & Surgeries

Aleeta Zapata – testing

Alicia Vierra (age 8, Larry & Leslie Douglass’ granddaughter) – facial reconstruction surgery

Bob Gubser – swelling of legs & arms, diagnosis unknown

Bob Tefertiller – hip surgery 5/25

Earl White – second shoulder surgery anticipated 5/26

Glen Olives – shoulder surgery 5/28

Linda Brandt – heart complications, ICU

Norma Moniodis – cancer complications, RCU

Sharon Christa – diagnosis unknown

Sue Moyer – total knee replacement

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Baily Ryan, Carole Thomas, Debbie Kaesmeyer, Dick Grover, Francis Shoemaker, George W. Smiley (wife Barbara), Gerry Zamzow, Janie Beverly, Madelyn Gaeckle, Mary Crowder, Mercedes Berg, Sally Beck, Vera Jones

Heartfelt love & prayer

Our deep sorrow and prayers go out to John and Lilli Mefford in the recent loss of their precious son, **John Syler Mefford**, who died in Lilli’s womb.

We extend love and care to Carrie Owens in the loss of her father, **George Swenson**, and will remember Carrie’s mother, Shirley, in prayer as well.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update: www.tlc.org/profiles**

stories

4 PARABLES OF JESUS



Part 1: How to Hear God Speak to You (Luke 8:4-15)

- The Farmer: God
- The Seed: His Word
- The Soil: _____

4 Essential Elements of Spiritual Receptivity

1. Cultivate _____

“... some seed fell along the **path**: it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.” *Luke 8:5*

“Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes along and takes away the word from their hearts, so they cannot believe and be saved.” *Luke 8:12*

The hardened path: The _____ mind

Causes of a hardened path:

“Today, if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts**... see to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.” *Hebrews 3:7,10*

2. Allocate _____

“Other seed fell on **shallow soil** with rock beneath. This seed began to grow but soon withered and died for lack of moisture.” *Luke 8:6 (LB)*

“Those on the rock are the ones who receive the Word with joy when they hear it, but they have **no root**. They believe for a while, but in the **time of testing**, they fall away.” *Luke 8:13 (NIV)*

The shallow soil: The _____ mind

“**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” *Colossians 3:16*

3. Eliminate

“Other seed fell among thorns which grew up with it and choked the plants.” *Luke 8:7*

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way, **they are choked by life’s worries, riches, and pleasures**, and they don’t mature.” *Luke 8:14*

The weedy soil: The _____ mind

3 types of weeds	
Life’s	_____
Life’s	_____
Life’s	_____

“Take every thought captive...” *2 Corinthians 10:5*

“Whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is good, whatever is noble, whatever is lovely... think about such things.” *Philippians 4:8*

4. Cooperate

“The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who **hear** the word, **retain** it and by **persevering** produce a **crop**.” *Luke 8:15*

“Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!” *James 1:22*

The good soil: The _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Luke 8:1-15. What is one thing you learned about this parable in last weekend’s sermon?


How are you challenged by this parable?

Of the four types of soil, which would you say your heart is right now? Why?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Thank Him for the lessons you learn and pray that you’ll be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer.

Tuesday

Please read Luke 8:5, 8:12 & Hebrews 3:7-11. What are the side effects of a hard heart?

continued 

Why do you think someone’s heart can grow hard to God’s words? Which of the causes of a hard heart mentioned in the sermon do you most often suffer from?

How can you cultivate a soft heart this week? How do you think that will impact your relationship with God?

Thank God today for the opportunity to cultivate a soft heart. Thank Him for His mercy and second (or third, or thousandth) chances. Ask Him to give you a humble spirit and willingness to let go of the things that make your heart hard.

Wednesday

Please read Luke 8:6, 8:13 & Colossians 3:16. When is the last time you set aside time to listen to God? What did you hear?

Why is listening an important part of your relationship with God?

How does not listening to God cause a superficial mind?

How can you incorporate time to listen into your life?

Thank God today that He is always listening to you! Thank Him for the fact that He desires to have a relationship with you. Ask Him to help you cultivate a practice of listening into your relationship with Him.

Thursday

Please read Luke 8:7 & 8:14, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 2:5 & 4:8. What do these verses say about the influence your thoughts have over your life?

Which of the “weeds” most often distracts you (worries, riches or pleasure)?

How have you felt distracted in your relationship with God recently?

What do you see in these verses that can help you discipline your mind and set distractions in their place?

Thank God today for the power you have available to you through Him. Thank Him for the many reasons you have to focus on Him. Ask Him for the discipline of mind to not allow distractions to take your attention away from God and the many blessings, mercies and helps He has lavished on you!



Memory Verse

“Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!”
James 1:22