



Bible Reading Group

The gospel of Mark

Chapter 4

Parable of the sower (4:1-20)

- 1 Which lake?
- 2 In the parable, identify what the following things symbolise:
 - farmer
 - seed
 - ground
 - path
 - rocky ground
 - thorns
 - crop of grain
- 3 How can we ensure we are “good ground”?
- 4 What did Jesus mean in v9?
- 5 What reasons did Jesus give in v11-12 for speaking in parables?
- 6 Where is the quotation in v12 from?

A lamp on a stand (4:21-25)

- 7 What sort of lamps did they use in those days?
- 8 Where else does Jesus talk about a lamp on a stand?
- 9 What does v22 mean?
- 10 What is the lesson of the parable?
- 11 How are our “measures” turned back on us?
- 12 Do you think what is described in v25 is fair? What should our response be?

The parable of the growing seed (4:26–29)

- 13 How is the seed like the kingdom of God?
- 14 What is the harvest in this parable?
- 15 What do the ground, seed, growth and grain represent?

The parable of the mustard seed (4:30–34)

- 16 How is the mustard seed like the kingdom of God?
- 17 Is the mustard seed the smallest seed?
- 18 Is the mustard plant the largest plant?
- 19 Why did Jesus only explain the parables to his disciples?

Jesus calms the storm (4:35–41)

- 20 The “other side” of what?
- 21 Where did they go?
- 22 How did Jesus manage to sleep during a storm?
- 23 What were the disciples afraid of?