

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE TODAY!

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The team at the Westwood Kids desk is happy to help you get them connected. For more info on the great things happening here, check out westwoodcc.org.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE New hearing assistance devices are available. These devices are designed to work alone or in conjunction with a hearing aid. Let an usher know if you would like one.



JOIN US FOR BAPTISM TONIGHT

You are invited to join us for the Baptism Celebration tonight. Bring a picnic dinner and join us for lawn games and time together following the service. Sunday, June 24, 6:30pm at Lake Minnetonka, Excelsior Commons.



CHILD DEDICATION

We love to celebrate the gift of a new baby through Child Dedication. We do this during regular worship services, generally on the fourth Sunday of each month. This is a special way to give thanks to God for the precious gift of a child and to offer up prayers for the family. To get more information or to have your child dedicated, head to our website.

Matthew 13:1-9 (NIV)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

The Parable of the Sower

The sower:

The seed:

The soil:

4 Responses

The _____ response

Matthew 13:19

The _____ response

Matthew 13:20-21

The _____ response

Matthew 13:22

The _____ response

Matthew 13:23

How does this story stir you? How does this story shape how you live out your own story?

Tell Me A Story ♦ June 24, 2018 ♦ Brian Suter

THE CONDITION OF THE HEART: THE SOWER

BIBLE READING PLAN

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. These verses are chosen by our pastors and designed to complement the Sunday message.

You can find it on our app or at westwoodcc.org/readingplan

- Matthew 13:1-23
- Psalm 18
- Matthew 6:19-34
- Psalm 145
- Hebrews 12:18-29

TELL ME A STORY



westwoodcc.org



westwood
community church

June 24, 2018

Tell Me a Story #1

The Condition of the Heart: The Parable of the Sower

June 24, 2018

1. Good stories compel us and some have the power to change us. Recently, when have you heard a good story, and how has that story shaped you?
2. We will ask two questions at the end of each of the messages in this series (listed at the bottom of the teaching notes).
 - a. How does this story stir you?

 - b. How does this story shape how you live out your own story?

Take some time to share your answers to these questions. *If you as a group have not given thought to them – start with 5 minutes to think & answer them, and then share.*

3. There are four types of soils that Jesus lays out in this parable he shares. They describe a picture of the condition of our souls. Which of the four soils most describes you right now & why?
 - a. The path – Matthew 13:4 & 19
 - b. The rocky soil – Matthew 13:5–6, 20–21
 - c. The thorny soil – Matthew 13:7, 22
 - d. The good soil – Matthew 13:8, 23
4. The path – where is this in you? What tempts you to become “hardened soil?”
 - a. What is God calling you to do to break up a little ground for the seed to take root?
5. Shallow ground – do you sense any prompting to take steps that would deepen your soil? If so, what might they be?
 - a. How can this group become more of an environment to help us to deepen soil?
6. Thorny soil – are there any weeds that you sense God calling you to pull? What are they, and how could we support you as a group in doing so?
 - a. Is there any weed pulling that you need to do in order to bring about good soil?
7. Good soil
 - a. Good soil is our pursuit, and the outcome with God’s help is fruit on an exponential scale.
 - i. Read Matthew 13:23. Has there been a time in your journey of faith that you’ve felt this kind of outcome of fruit?
 - b. What are some of the simple practices that you do which help you to cultivate good soil in faith? How can you protect your days in order that you’re regularly doing these practices?

What are one or two main take-aways for you from this message? Pray about those things with each other.