**THE CHARACTER OF THE KINGDOM
MARK 4:21-34 (ESV)**

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD BRINGS LIGHT**

**The Parable of the Lamp - Mark 4:21-25 (ESV)** *21 And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? 22 For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” 24 And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. 25 For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*

1. **THE TRUTH WILL BE REVEALED**

**Ephesians 5:11 (ESV)**
*Take no part in (have no fellowship with) the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*

**Psalm 139:23-24 (ESV)***23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

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1. **OUR FAITH IS MEANT TO BE VISIBLE**

**Colossians 3:16** **(ESV)** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

**Matthew 5:16****(ESV)** *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

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**THE KINGDOM OF GOD BRINGS LIFE**

**The Parable of the Growing Seed - Mark 2:26-29 (ESV)***26 And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”*

**John 10:10****(ESV)** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

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**THE KINGDOM OF GOD BRINGS GROWTH**

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-32 (ESV)***30 And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”*

**Psalm 46:10 (ESV)** *"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"*

**1 Peter 1:24-25** **(ESV)**
*“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” (Quoting the prophet Isaiah)*

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**Mark 4:33-34 (ESV)** *33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything*

**CONSIDERING THE KINGDOM:**

1. HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE GOOD NEWS?
2. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE GOOD NEWS?
3. WILL YOU BEAR FRUIT BY SHARING WHAT YOU’VE BEEN GIVEN?