

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday January 25, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 4:26–29**, Jesus describes the kingdom of God as something that grows in hidden, mysterious ways. He is not asking people to control outcomes or manufacture results; instead, He is inviting them to faithfully scatter the seed and trust God with the growth. This passage speaks directly to the tension many of us feel between wanting visible progress and living in seasons where nothing seems to be happening. It challenges our temptation to quit, force change, or measure God’s work only by what we can see. As we discuss together, we’ll explore how trusting God’s Word reshapes how we live, serve, and remain faithful even when growth feels slow or unseen.

Main Passage:

Mark 4:26–29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Keep Scattering!

READ ALOUD

Mark 4:26–29

DISCUSS

Opening Question: When have you invested time or effort into something but struggled because you couldn't see immediate results?

- What stands out to you about how Jesus describes the role of the farmer versus the role of the seed in this parable?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasizes that the farmer “doesn't know how” the seed grows? What does that reveal about God's kingdom?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that spiritual growth depends mainly on human effort, skill, or strategy?
- The sermon talked about growth happening “under the dirt.” What are some ways God might be working in someone's life before there's visible change?
- How does discouragement affect our willingness to keep scattering the seed—both in our own lives and in others'?
- What kinds of opposition or doubts tend to surface when you try to live out your faith more intentionally?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

DISCUSS & APPLY

- Where do you feel tempted to stop scattering because you're not seeing results?
- What does it look like in everyday life to “stop forcing it” and trust God with growth instead?
- How can noticing small signs of growth change the way you evaluate what God is doing in you or around you?
- What practices help you stay trusting when progress feels slow or invisible?

RESPOND

- **Leave the field:** Where have you been tempted to quit because growth feels slow? What's one way you'll stay faithful this week?
- **Scatter the seed:** Who is one person God may be placing on your heart? What is one simple way you can share encouragement or Scripture with them?
- **Trust the process:** What area of your life do you need to release control and trust God to work in His time?

PRAY

Take a few minutes to pray together, asking God to give the group patience and trust as He works beneath the surface. Invite Him to help each person faithfully scatter His Word, resist discouragement, and rest in His power rather than their own effort. Close by thanking God that His kingdom is growing even when we cannot see it.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 4:26–29

- What does Jesus compare God’s kingdom to in this story?
- What happens to the seed even when the farmer is sleeping or busy?
- Why do you think God wants us to trust Him with growing things instead of trying to control them?
- How can our family “plant good seeds” with our words and actions this week?

For younger children: Coach them to listen to Jesus and trust that God is always working, even when they can’t see it.

For older kids or students: Talk about “seeds” they are planting through habits, friendships, and choices, and how trusting God matters even when growth feels slow or unpopular.

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- Day 1: Mark 5:1–20
- Day 2: Mark 5:21–34
- Day 3: Mark 5:35–43
- Day 4: Mark 5:1–20
- Day 5: Mark 5:21–43

What's Going On?

In this short parable, Jesus explains that God's kingdom advances through God's power, not human control. The farmer's responsibility is simple—scatter the seed—while the mysterious work of growth belongs entirely to God.

This reinforces a larger theme in Mark's Gospel: God is actively at work, even when His activity seems hidden or slow to unfold.

A Bit of Background

In an agricultural culture, listeners understood that farmers could not force crops to grow. Growth depended on factors beyond human control, such as soil and seasons.

Jesus uses this familiar reality to teach a spiritual truth: God's Word carries life within it, and the results of His kingdom unfold according to His timing, not human effort or expertise.