



Relationship

Focus Believing in God's Word is the key to growing closer to God. People who believe in the Bible as God's authority in their lives will be fruitful and overcome the enemy. Satan and his demons attempt to steal the Word of God out of our lives, but God's plan is that we hide His Word in our hearts.

Fun What is your favorite spring break memory? Do you prefer to travel during spring break, or to stay home?

Review Key Scriptures: Mark 4:1–15

- As we grow in our walk with God, we will move from one level in our relationship with Him to the next. In order to move from "Beginning in God" to "Close to God," we need to solidify our belief in the Bible.
- Satan's plan is to steal the Word of God from us. The parable of the sower in Mark 4 shows that our enemies, Satan and his demons, try to steal the Word of God as soon as it is sown into our lives.
- God's plan is that we hear the Word, accept it and bear fruit. When we are beginning in God we need to learn the basics of God's Word and be mentored and disciplined.
- Hiding God's Word in your heart is the key to prospering, being successful, overcoming the enemy, overcoming temptation and growing in God.

Group Dynamics Idea Nobody wants to be a part of a boring group. Guard against boredom and routine. Be creative and change things up from time to time. People like things that are interesting and out-of-the-box!

Discuss

1. Why do you think believing in God's Word is the key step in growing close to God?
2. Read Mark 4:4 and Mark 4:15. What are some of the ways the enemy tries to steal the Word?
3. Why would one of Satan's strategies be to steal God's Word from us?
4. Read Mark 4:20. Can you think of a time you heard God's Word or read a scripture and it made a difference in your life? What kind of fruit does the Word of God produce in our lives?
5. Read Psalm 119:11 and 119:97–105. What are some practical ways to hide God's Word in our hearts and to meditate on Scripture?
6. What are some challenges to consistently memorizing and meditating on God's Word? Have you found any strategies that work well for you?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about growing closer to God and about His Word?

Take Home

- In order to draw closer to God and overcome the enemy, we must hide God's Word in our heart.
- The enemy is crafty and attempts to steal God's Word from us. Be vigilant to guard against Satan and his demons stealing the Word from you.
- When we memorize Scripture and meditate on it, we're hiding the Word in our hearts and the enemy cannot steal it. Fill your heart with God's Word.

Pray

Father, thank You for Your Word. Please guard my heart and keep the enemy from stealing the Word out of my life. Help me to hide Your word in my heart. Please give me strategies to be faithful to reading and living according to your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip A great group is one where there is dialogue and conversation. When asking your own discussion questions, keep them open-ended. Ask thoughtful follow-up questions that allow people to share. Although you need to be sensitive to people who are not comfortable opening up, try to intentionally draw things out of others as you discuss.