

## How to Grow a Garden

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Joseph Carty / General

Learn Ministry / Evangelism; Discipleship; Friendship / Matthew 10:11–14

The last sermon gave us the great call to evangelistic mission. In that sermon we covered the why. Why do we do mission. This sermon is about the How. How do we win souls to Christ in our local community today. We will discuss the Evangelism Cycle and specifically the Learn Cycle. We will give the big picture of how Bible Studies and the Crusade all fit together.

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Who like gardening?

Who does gardening?

## Evangelism Cycle

## Love/Learn Cycle

Prepare Soil

Plant Seed

Protect

Harvest

- Last Quarter

- Love Cycle
  - Prepare Soil
  - Transition
  - Plant Seed
  
- This Quarter
  - Learn Cycle
  
- Last Week
  - Make Disciples
    - Why...?
  
- Today
  - How to Grow A Garden
    - How...?
  
- Jesus
  - Teaching on Farming

## The Parable of the Seed Growing

[Mark 4:26–29](#) (ESV)

And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

- Evangelism
  - scattering seed
- Seed =
  - gospel truth
- Farmer =
  - us
- Farmers Job
  - scatter seed
- Next?

- sleep??

**Mark 4:27 ESV**

He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

- During Germination
  - Farmer Helpless
- Point?
  - Miraculous
- Some people
  - didn't think
    - but did germinate
  - expected
    - but nothing
- Point,
  - germination

- miracle
- sit and watch
- Our job,
  - keep planting
  - keep praying
  - Keep watching
- Jesus goes into more detail

## Parable of the Sower

### **Matthew 13:3-9 ESV**

And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

## Four Types of Soil

## Hard Path

### Matthew 13:19 ESV

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

- Hear but doesn't
  - understand
  - accept
  - believe
  - life

## Rocky Ground

### Matthew 13:20–21 ESV

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

- Hear
  - believe
  - no roots

- tribulation
- persecution
- falls away

### **Among Thorns**

#### **Matthew 13:22** *ESV*

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

- Hear
  - believe
  - cares of world
  - deceitfulness of riches
  - choked out

### **Good Ground**

#### **Matthew 13:23** *ESV*

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

- Hears
  - Understand
  - Believes
  - Bears Fruit
  - Yields Harvest
- What did we learn?
- Like parable of seed growing:
  - Germination
    - Miracle
- Farmer
  - put seed everywhere
  - watched
  - prayed
  - waited
- Key Idea



- Which soil produced?
  - Good Soil
- Somewhat predictable???
- What defines Good Soil
  - Soft
  - No Rock
  - No Weeds
  - Right Nutrients

Gardening

You work to create soil.

- › Good Soil
  - › Good Germination
    - › Good Plants
      - › Good Harvest

- Intentional
  - create environment
    - for germination

In Garden

Soft

Moist

Weed Free

Rock Free

Fertile

Regular Gardening

Spiritually:

New Garden

Till

Water

Weeds

Rocks

Not Fertile

Hardening

Weeds Coming back

- Key Point
  - Repeating Efforts
- Evangelism
  - Relationships
  - Connection
  - Repetition
- Marketing
  - 50 Exposures
  - Billboard
  - Email
  - Telemarketer
  - Yard Sign

- Church
  - 4th July
  - VBS
  - Let's Move Day
  - School Supplies
  - Dental Supplies
  - Clothing
  - Food
  - News Letter
  - Cooking Classes
  - Depression Recovery
  - Bible Study
  - Visit Church
- Relationships
  - Create Connection
  - Establishes Healthy Soil

- Soil Health Increases
  - by use
  - by what you add to it.
- Must add value
  - Not spamming people

Back to Parable

**Mark 4:27 ESV**

He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

- Germinated
- Next

**Mark 4:28 ESV**

The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

After Germination?

# Cycle

- Prepare
  - Plant
  - Protect
- 
- Seed Germinated
  - Now what?
- 
- Protect
    - foster
    - support
    - strengthen

In Garden

water

weed

sun

pests

- Give what it needs to thrive;

- Friendship
- Teaching
- Worship
- Service

### **Friendship**

- Like Child
- Safety
- Relationship

### **Teach**

- Like a child
- Who is safe
- What is not safe
- How to feed

### **Worship**

- Corporate Gathering

- Growing Together
- Like Child
- Experience Family Life

### **Service**

- Like Child
- Helping Around House
- Church - Serving Together.

## Harvest

### **Mark 4:29 ESV**

But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

- More than Baptism
- Notice
  - End Game?
- Produce Fruit



- Personal - Character
- Corporate - Believers
- Goal
  - Reproduction
    - Multiplication
- When Believers
  - actively participate
    - preparing others

## Appeal

- Participate In
  - Preparing Soil
    - Repeated Connections
  - Planting Seed
    - Offering Truth
  - Protecting Plant

- Helping Them Thrive
- Harvesting
- Preparing More People For Gospel