



VISION

Vision Weekend | Cultivate | 08.22-23.2020

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: What if instead of waiting until we were in a crisis to grow, we cultivated growth for whatever is coming next? This year we will cultivate growth individually and together so that we are prepared to make the most of whatever God brings our way.

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction

(13 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What is your best gardening advice?
- Digging Deeper: What does cultivating soil mean? Why is it important? What happens if you skip that step when planting your garden?

» Observation | Read Matthew 13:3-8; 18-23

(15 minutes)

- What is your initial reaction to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | There is no soul work without soil work.

(11 minutes)

- Jesus is sharing a story with a crowd that's pretty confusing for them; why does he do it this way? (look at verses 9-17)

» Message for the Crowd | Reference Matthew 13:3-8

(13 minutes)

- Describe the parable Jesus has just taught. What do you notice about the four descriptions He gives? What is similar in each example, and what is different?
- What are the things that prevent people from cultivating the soil in their hearts? How can we encourage one another toward growth?

» Meaning for the Core | Reference Matthew 13:18-23

(15 minutes)

- When Jesus' disciples were honest about their confusion, what were they risking? When was the last time you admitted you didn't know something?
- What are the types of hearts Jesus is describing with the soils? Where do you see yourself, and how is God challenging you to grow?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(20 minutes)

- Work through *The Rule of Life* exercise online or through the Eastern Hills app, and check-in with one another throughout the year.
- Cultivating our relationship with Jesus starts with those closest to us. As a group, have a conversation about the ways you currently grow in your relationship with Jesus together. Next, spend some time thinking about what you can do as a group to grow this year. Set one goal for growth as a group. Do you want to go through the Bible together this year? Do you want to serve together on the weekends? Do you want to focus on your finances, your marriage, your parenting? Make a plan, and do it together!
- Close by praying for each other to be honest with themselves about how God wants to cultivate growth in their lives this year.