



“WAIT: Looking For Growth”

MARK 4

Small Group Plan

*Prayer is not a way of being busy with God
instead of people ...*

*[It's] standing in front of him
without anything to show, to prove, or to argue,
and ... allowing him to enter*

— Henri Nouwen

*Be not afraid of growing slowly,
be afraid only of standing still.*

— Anonymous

What grows makes no noise.

— Anonymous

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Who in your family (current or growing up) could grow anything? Why?
- Who killed everything? What made the difference?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— QUIET GROWTH —

Mark 4:26-29

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.

- Spiritual growth is sometimes **hidden** and sometimes **visible**. Where do you see these two aspects at work in spiritual growth today?
- This story is filled with the theme of patience.
- Why is patience difficult for some, but natural for others?
- Why do so many want “quick” results?
- The farmer anticipates the harvest, but he is not impatient. How can a person be eager and expectant, but not impatient?
- What does “the harvest” mean?

— AMAZING GROWTH —

Mark 4:30-32

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

- Why did Jesus choose the mustard seed to represent the kingdom?
- Why is it powerful for greatness to come from smallness or weakness?
- What hope does this story give you when you feel that your life, your family or your church is insignificant?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Does knowing that the power to grow is ultimately in God’s hands cause you to rest more or work more? Explain.
- At what stage of growth are you: Seed? Sprouting? Growing? Producing? Drying up?
- Where do you want to be?
- When did you see something small grow into something big? How did it happen?
- Which of the three lesson applications is the most difficult for you:
 - Waiting for God?
 - Stilling the noise?
 - Yielding control?
- Close with a time of quiet, personal prayer.