

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Understanding Jesus

**Lesson 2:** Stewarding Understanding

## Exponential Growth

Mark 4:26-32

*Though we, as Christ followers, have a responsibility to sow the seed of the gospel, it comes with its own power to take root and to produce fruit in a person's life. We cannot do that. \_\_\_\_\_ can do that.*

**Discussion 1.** When thinking about sharing our faith with someone (sowing the gospel message), why is it important to know the difference between our role and God's role in that process? How can you tell if God is working in someone in that regard?

*Producing fruit that is ripe for harvest, whether for use in this world or for the next, is strictly the province of God. We sow the seed, but the fruit and the harvest \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 2.** If producing spiritual fruit is strictly the province of God, does that mean spiritual disciplines have no relevance in our lives? If they do serve a purpose, what is it?

*The same God Who created the universe from nothing likewise takes a small spiritual seed in an individual's heart and produces something bigger and significantly \_\_\_\_\_ than any of us can even imagine.*

**Discussion 3.** How would you describe the "seed" that ended up taking root in your life that has grown into your current faith? How small did it seem at the time it was planted? At that time, did you have any "vision" for what it would eventually become for you?

*To view our spiritual growth as merely preparing us for Heaven is foreign to the way Jesus spoke of spiritual growth. It is less about benefiting us (in this life or the next) and much more about benefiting \_\_\_\_\_, pointing them toward life in God's kingdom.*

**Discussion 4.** If you were to shift your understanding of your own spiritual growth from how it will benefit you to how it will benefit others, how might that impact your day-to-day spiritual work? Do you think that is a shift God wants you to make in your thinking? Why or why not?