



## **Mark My Words    Week 4    “Ears to Hear”    Discussion Guide**

Icebreaker question: What are some of your favorite children’s stories and why?

**Key Scripture: Mark 4:3-9, 10-12, 15-20**

1. Jesus is a master at using parables to convey spiritual truths. Read Mark 4:3-9, the parable of the soil or Sower together. Identify the four conditions of soil described. Any gardeners or farmers in your circle? Discuss how important the condition of the soil is to growth.
2. In the message, we hear that Jesus described 4 different kinds of “hearers: Plugged Ears-(fall on path, hard soil), Immature Ears-(not much soil), Infected Ears-(among thorns and unfruitful) and Healthy Ears-(good soil). Share with one another what kind of ears you’ve had over the years? Now? What have been some of the challenges in your life to hearing Jesus well?
3. In Matthew, we hear from Jesus that we only need faith the size of the small mustard seed (Matthew 17:20-21). The message made a statement, **“What holds you up isn’t how much faith you have, but how dependable is the object of your faith”**. How does your life experience line up with this statement? How dependable has the “object of your faith” been?
4. Even though Jesus, The Sower, is “broadcasting” seed everywhere, we often aren’t “tuning in” to listen. Share with each other how you tune in to God. What practices have been helpful to you in your listening to Jesus?
5. Jesus begins the parable by saying “Listen!” and finishes with “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand”. He’s like a few teachers I’ve had, who, during a lecture, when something was going to be on the test, they’d say... “Now this is important...” That was code for, “this will be on the test”. What is your take away from Jesus’ parable today?

**Prayer Time:** Pray for any specific requests in your circle. Pray for one another to apply daily practices for listening to Jesus.

**This Week:** Take time during your prayer time to also listen for God. Practice being silent and still.

**FOR ADDITIONAL READING AND STUDY: Check out the Bible reading plan here:**  
[cornerstonemi.org/mark](http://cornerstonemi.org/mark)