



Week 1: A Weary World...Distracted

Growth Group Opener:

What part of Christmas helps you slow down and truly sense God's presence?

Read Matthew 13:18-23

In this parable, what do we see that specifically chokes out the word?

What do the "worries of this life" and "deceitfulness of wealth" look like in our world?

How are these particularly relevant in the Christmas season?

Why do you think Jesus treats distraction as spiritually dangerous, as opposed to a minor inconvenience?

Which soil do you resonate with right now, particularly as we enter this Advent season?



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When life gets crowded, what tends to get pushed to the edges first?

What thorns are crowding your heart right now?

Why do you think spiritual fruit only grows in uncluttered soil?

What do we learn about God in this passage?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Advent Challenge (should you choose to accept it)

For the next week, choose one or more of the following:

1. Read Scripture before you get on your phone each morning.
2. Set aside 10-15 uninterrupted minutes to be silent and still with God.
3. Put your phone away for a full hour when you get home from work each day.
4. Say no to one thing in order to say yes to God.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for your love and grace. Lord, we ask that you would cultivate the soil of our hearts. Make us willing recipients of the seeds you want to plant in our lives, and help us to uproot any thorns getting in the way of our growth.
In the name of Jesus, amen.

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