4 POINTS CHURCH

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOD'S HEART FOR — WEEK 6

God's Heart For Your Growth

Pastor Russ Chambers | November 8, 2026

Main Scripture: Luke 8:4-15

Connect

ICEBREAKER

Tell us about something you have tried to grow, a garden, a plant, a skill, a habit, and what surprised you about how long it actually took. Did you ever want to give up on it before anything showed?

Message Snapshot

BIG IDEA

We cannot force spiritual growth on our own timeline, but we can faithfully stay in the places where growth happens, by making five movements and taking the next faithful step.

STICKY BOTTOM LINE

You don't have to see the whole harvest today. Take the next fruitful step.

REMEMBER THIS

Do not be hearers of the word only, but doers of it. It is the doing that brings the fruit.

KEY TRUTHS FROM SUNDAY

- Growth takes time, and it does not run on our schedule. Pastor Russ said sermons, podcasts, and good habits matter, but they are not a guarantee of fruit, and only the Spirit of God can produce transformation in us.
- The parable of the sower is not only about people who have not met Jesus. Pastor Russ said it also describes how believers keep receiving the word, either letting it take root or growing callous to it.
- From collecting information to practicing obedience (Hebrews 5:12-14), and from protecting comfort to developing roots (Luke 8:13). Deep roots grow as we keep trusting Jesus when following him becomes costly, and not every headwind is the enemy.
- From crowded priorities to a life ordered around Jesus (Luke 8:14). Pastor Russ said some of us are too invested in the highs and lows of a world that is passing away to be fruitful in God's kingdom.
- From receiving ministry to sharing responsibility, and from participating in mission to living as Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are needed because others need what Christ is doing in us. Will we go on a mission trip, or will our lives be a mission?

Scripture

Read together: Luke 8:4-15

As you read, notice the four places the seed lands, and listen for the words Jesus uses to explain why the seed lasts in some soil and not in others. Pay attention to what happens over time.

Discuss

OBSERVE

1. Read verses 4-8. What are the places the seed falls, and what happens to the seed in each one?

2. In verses 13-14, how does Jesus describe the people represented by the rock and by the thorns? What words does he use for why their growth does not last?
3. Pastor Russ also read Hebrews 5:12-13. What does the writer say these believers should be doing by now, and what do they still need instead?

UNDERSTAND

4. Pastor Russ said he used to read this parable as being only about how non-believers hear the word, but now sees it as how we keep receiving it. What changes if Jesus is talking to the people already sitting in church?
5. Pastor Russ said he would rather we spend extended time in Scripture apart from the pastor's voice, and that the pastor was never meant to replace you at the table with the Word open. Why does reading the Bible yourself shape a person differently than hearing someone else explain it?
6. Pastor Russ said not every headwind is the enemy, and that some resistance keeps you in your seat so your roots can grow. Why is a slow or hard season so easy to read as a sign that something is wrong? What can roots do that visible growth cannot?

APPLY

7. Pastor Russ said some of us have calendars and minds consumed by things that are temporary, from busyness to headlines to the highs and lows of this world. What is one thing taking up space in your life right now that leaves little room to stay close to Jesus?
8. Pastor Russ offered a list of possible next steps: an obedience you are putting off, a confession, a conversation, forgiveness, asking for help in a hard season, removing something that crowds your life, serving, or loving and talking about Jesus with someone. Which one is closest to your next step, and what makes it hard?

Live It Out

Pastor Russ's challenge was to decide on one next faithful step and take it. Choose one before next Sunday: trim one voice from your podcast or video list and spend that time reading Luke 8:4-15 on your own; have the conversation or extend the forgiveness you have been putting off; or remove one thing that is crowding out time with Jesus. Tell your group which step you chose, and come ready to share what happened.

Prayer

- Thank God for planting his word in us, and for being patient with us while it takes root.
- Confess the places where we have collected information without practicing it, or let the cares and pleasures of life crowd out the word.
- Pray for anyone in the group in a hard season right now, that they would keep trusting Jesus and stay put long enough for roots to grow.
- Ask God to show each person the next faithful step he is calling them to take, and pray for 4 Points Church as we live on mission here and around the world in 2027.

Father, thank You for Your word and for Your patience with us. Forgive us for the times we have listened without doing, or let other things crowd You out. Give us roots that hold in hard seasons, and give us the courage to take the next step You have shown us. Make our lives a mission, wherever You send us. In Jesus' name, amen.

HOST TIP Several questions circle one truth: growth is slow, and it is not a race. Give the Observe questions only a few minutes so there is room for Understand and Apply. If someone shares that they are in a hard season, do not rush to fix it. Thank them, and ask the group to pray for them right then.