

# SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

September 26/27, 2015; The Moral of the Story

**Speaker:**

Pastor Mark Batterson

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 13:31-32

**Note To Leaders:**

This weekend we discussed the parable of the mustard seed. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

**Icebreaker Suggestions:** Pastor Mark stated that one of his favorite things about a mustard seed was that it provided him with his favorite hot dog condiment – what's yours and why?

**Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did this parable speak to where you are now in your life?

**Specific Questions:**

1. Pastor Mark stated that, "You're going to die, but your faith will not. Long after you die, the seeds of faith that you planted will impact nations and generations." What is your response to this assertion? Do you believe it? If so, what can you do ensure you're planning seeds of faith? If not, why not?
2. Acts 3:13 refers to "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Pastor Mark stated that, "God is a God of three generations." What is your "God lineage?" If it starts with you, what can you do to keep the lineage going?
3. Pastor Mark shared the idea that when you show up someplace, the atmosphere should shift and the temperature should change because heaven is invading; there should be more love and peace impacting the situations we find ourselves in. When you walk into a room, does the atmosphere shift? How? What are practical ways you could shift the atmosphere? Do you do them? Why or why not?

4. You have a sphere of influence that is yours, not anyone else's – you have a unique network of friends and coworkers and your job is to bring God's love into those circumstances. Are you? Does your faith inform what you're doing? How or how not? In what ways can you increase your focus on this in the coming weeks?
5. When discussing the part of the parable where it's stated that the man planted the mustard seed in his field, Pastor Mark remarked that, "some of us are more worried about our neighbor's field than working where *we're* planted." Do you relate to this statement? Why or why not? Discuss some times that focusing on your "neighbor's field" kept you from working where you're planted. What were the outcomes of this? Have you ever experienced a time where it was tempting to get distracted, but instead you stayed and "worked where you were planted?" What was the outcome of this?
6. Pastor Mark shared that, "every action we make has an unintended consequence beyond our ability to predict." Further he shared that these consequences can be both, "unexpected drawbacks," or, "unexpected benefits." What decisions have you made that caused an unexpected drawback or benefit? What did you learn from that experience?
7. One of Pastor Mark's final thoughts was that, "faith is putting God between you and your circumstances, not letting your circumstances get between you and God." What is your response to this statement? Have you ever let circumstances get between you and God? If so, how did you get past that? If not, how have you avoided it?

**Challenge:**

**Read, Pray, Act:** Pastor Mark shared that the focus of the Lord's prayer is "getting heaven into people, God taking dominion through our lives, and the reality of heaven invading earth." Read and pray through Matthew 6:9-13, focusing on the elements listed above. After, write down ways you see heaven "getting into people" in your life, examples of God taking dominion in your life, and then pray about what it will look like when heaven truly invades earth.