



STORYTELLERS

Week 4

BREAKING THE ICE

What's your favorite summertime meal?

What is your favorite parable in the Bible?

Last week Pastor Dwan talked about God treasuring us and how we should treasure others. How have you seen God treasure you? How were you able to treasure others this last week?

MAIN CONTENT

In our fourth week of the Storytellers series, we had our good friend Jeff Henderson talk about how change is hard. We all want to change but we can tend to focus on doing the changes ourselves instead of letting God change us.

1. Talk about a time when you were trying to create change in your life but you fell short. How did trying to change yourself work?

The world tries to sell us easy change. They tell us we can have quick, microwave change, but lasting change isn't quick. Lasting change takes time - like a crockpot.

The parable we learned from this week was the parable of the mustard seed. This parable is so important that it's told three times in the Bible.

Read Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32 and Luke 13:18-19

2. Which one of these readings of the parable speaks to you the most? Why?

When we read parables we ask ourselves three things: Where's God in this parable; Where am I in this parable; and What's God teaching me? When we look at the parable told in Matthew, we see that God is being represented as the man. We are the field where the mustard seed is being planted. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is the mustard seed that plants prayer and change in our lives.

God wants us to remember the importance and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He shows us in Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:11a and Ephesians 1:19-20 how vital the Holy Spirit is for us to live a full life in Him.

3. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit changing you in your life?

The good news is, as followers of Jesus, we have access to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit wants to help us. All we have to do is ask for His help and position ourselves to receive His help. When we pray the simple prayer, "Holy Spirit, will you help me?", we open ourselves to being dependent on God and His Spirit, rather than ourselves.

4. How often do you ask the Holy Spirit to help you? Have you seen a difference in your circumstances when you rely on the Holy Spirit and not yourself?

We all have areas where we want to change. In order to grow and change, first we have to start with small changes. When we start small it grows, over time, into something bigger. We tend to want quick, microwave growth, but the problem with that kind of growth is that the change usually doesn't last long.

5. What is a small change you are looking to make in your life right now? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to be a part of that small change?

After you start with small changes, you move to the next step of planting. What we plant matters. Planting for good character and good relationships is vital in your growth. Jeff said, "Who we listen to is the preview of the future you". In order to grow, we need to be listening to the right voices to help us plant healthy choices.

6. Who do you allow to have the loudest voice in your life? Are these people of high character? Can you see yourself being like them? If you can't see yourself wanting to be like them; what keeps you in the relationship?

The last step of making changes in your life is growing. In order to grow, you need a vision (Proverbs 29:18a). Having a vision means you know what you are growing.

7. What kind of vision do you have for your life?

When we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us and follow the steps to start small, plant wisely and sow daily; we will see God move in our circumstances and help us change.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to help us in our lives. Will you give us a vision for our lives, help us start small, and surround us with people that can encourage us and help bring forth your vision for our lives? Holy Spirit please help us follow you and step into the change you have for us. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + Follow along with our Storytellers podcast every Wednesday throughout the summer where we hear about earthly stories with heavenly meanings. Go to [Add a little bit of body text](#) to listen.
- + Ask God what kind of changes He wants for you. Journal about them and then ask the Holy Spirit for help and start making small changes to live the life God has called you to.
- + Partner with someone in your group to pray for one another and encourage each other in the small changes you are making in your lives.