

# Summary

Pastor Dave delivers a sermon on the importance of sharing one's faith and planting spiritual seeds in others' lives. Using Jesus' parables from Mark 4, he emphasizes three key challenges: influence your surroundings (like light), always be planting seeds of faith, and trust God for the increase (like a mustard seed growing into a tree). The message encourages believers not to hide their faith but to actively share it with others, recognizing that while we may plant or water, God gives the growth.

**Through powerful stories like Edward Kimball leading Dwight L. Moody to Christ (which began a chain reaction affecting millions through Billy Graham), Pastor Dave illustrates how small acts of faith sharing can create ripple effects that last for generations. He challenges the congregation to leave a Christ-honoring legacy that will outlast their earthly lives.**

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the importance of sharing our faith and planting seeds in others' lives, we ask that You would open our hearts to Your message. Help us to see the opportunities You place before us each day to be Your light in this world. Give us courage to step out of our comfort zones and the wisdom to recognize when You're calling us to speak. May our discussion today not just be informative but transformative, changing how we view our responsibility to share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

Think back to when someone first invited you to church or shared their faith with you. What do you remember most about that interaction, and how did it make you feel?

## Key Verses

1. Mark 4:21-23
2. Mark 4:26-29
3. Mark 4:30-32
4. 1 Peter 3:15

5. John 15:5

6. Proverbs 11:30

## Questions

1. In the sermon, Pastor Dave says, 'You will never reap a harvest if you never plant a seed.' What seeds of faith have others planted in your life, and how did they grow?
2. What fears or hesitations do you have about sharing your faith with others? How might you overcome these?
3. Jesus compares believers to light that shouldn't be hidden. In what ways might you be 'hiding your light' in certain areas of your life?
4. The sermon mentions three common reasons we don't share our faith: like the scarecrow (lack of knowledge), the lion (fear), or the tin man (lack of compassion). Which of these do you relate to most, and why?
5. Pastor Dave shared the story of his wife Beth inviting a woman to church after overhearing her conversation. What opportunities to share your faith might you be missing in your everyday interactions?
6. How does the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32) encourage you when you feel your efforts to share Christ seem small or insignificant?
7. The sermon mentions praying, 'Lord, today will you somehow cross our paths with someone that we can spiritually encourage?' What might change if you began praying this regularly?
8. Pastor Dave says, 'This world is not our home, but it is our assignment.' How does this perspective change how you view your daily interactions with non-believers?

## Life Application

This week, commit to praying each morning: 'Lord, today will you somehow cross my path with someone I can spiritually encourage or bring one step closer to you?' Then be attentive throughout your day for opportunities God provides. When you notice someone who might be open to a spiritual conversation, take a step of faith to engage them. This could be as simple as offering to pray for a need they mention, inviting them to church, or sharing how your faith has helped you through a similar situation they're facing. Keep a journal of these encounters and how God worked through your willingness to plant seeds.

## Key Takeaways

1. Christians are called to influence their surroundings like light - not hiding their faith but letting it shine in dark places.
2. Our job is to faithfully plant seeds of faith through conversations, invitations, and relationships, while trusting God to make them grow.
3. We often fail to share our faith because we lack knowledge, courage, or compassion - but God can work through our willingness despite these shortcomings.

4. Small acts of faith sharing can create ripple effects that impact generations, just as Edward Kimball's simple conversation with Dwight L. Moody led to millions coming to Christ.

5. God has placed us where we are for a reason - our workplace, neighborhood, and relationships are our mission field where we can leave a Christ-honoring legacy.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for entrusting us with the precious message of Your gospel. Forgive us for the times we've hidden our light or failed to plant seeds when You've given us opportunities. We ask for courage to overcome our fears, wisdom to recognize divine appointments, and compassion that compels us to share Your love with those who don't know You. Help us to remember that while we may plant or water, You are the one who gives the increase. May our lives create ripples of faith that extend far beyond what we can see or imagine. Use us to build Your kingdom, one conversation, one invitation, one relationship at a time. In Your powerful name we pray, amen.