

**Journey Course Five: How to Share Your Faith  
#3 – Plant Seeds – Luke 8:4-15**

**Life Truth: To share Jesus, plant Gospel seeds at the right time,  
in the right way and to the right depth.**

Luke 8:4-8

One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

**Four "Heart Soils," and how we can plant Gospel seeds in each**

Luke 8:11-12

This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

**Footpath Soil: Those who \_\_\_\_\_, but don't \_\_\_\_\_.**

Depth: Move from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ conversation.

Timing: \_\_\_\_\_ ...then listen...and respond.

Method: Tell your \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 8:13

The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.

**Rocky Soil: Those who \_\_\_\_\_, but fall away under \_\_\_\_\_.**

Depth: Show them a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

Method: \_\_\_\_\_ to our Christ community.

Method: Tell your faith story.

Luke 8:14

The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

**Thorny Soil: Those who \_\_\_\_\_, but don't grow to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Timing: Help them in \_\_\_\_\_.

Method: Tell your faith story.

Luke 8:15

And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

**Good Soil: Those who \_\_\_\_\_, producing a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Method: Tell your faith story! (See next page)

## **How To Share Your Faith #3: Learn to Share Your Faith Story**

Each of us has a story to tell regarding how Jesus came into our lives, saved us from our sin, and gave us a whole new narrative. Sharing this with others is important because it's *our* story, the "one thing" we have that we can represent with true authority. All stories are different, but we all face the same enemies: Satan, the world banded together against God, and our fallen, "bent" nature. On the other hand, there is one hero, one Savior: Jesus. When we hear others' faith stories, we see how much we have in common in the saving work of Jesus Christ, and unbelievers are invited to realize that their story can change, too.

Use the three sections and questions below to help you write out your story:

1. The Beginning: Before I Chose to Follow Jesus (or gave Him control)
  - What was my life like that will relate most to the unbeliever?
  - What did my life formerly revolve around the most?
  - At that point in my life, where did I find my security and happiness?
  - How did those areas fail me...how did I experience being broken?
  
2. What Happened: How I Chose to Follow Jesus (or gave Him control)
  - When was the first time I heard the invite to follow Jesus?
  - What were my initial reactions?
  - How and why did my attitude change?
  - What were the obstacles I crossed in choosing to follow Christ?
  
3. After I Chose to Follow Jesus (or gave Him control)
  - How did I change because of this? Share examples.
  - Why am I motivated differently now and how have I changed?

Write the way you speak; make the story your own. Practice it until it becomes natural. Keep it short, like one page, 2-3 minutes. At that length, it's easily something you can fold into a conversation without it becoming a monologue.

## **My Faith Story**

**The Beginning: What was I like before I chose to follow Jesus or gave him control?**

**What happened? How did I choose to follow Jesus or give him control?**

**After I chose to follow Jesus or give him control: How did I change?**

**What's it like for me following Jesus now?**