

Bible chat notes week starting 13 6 21

Read Ezekiel 17: 21 - 24

1. God is presented as the active player in this scenario; the people of Israel had nothing to do. How do you respond to the idea that God's kingdom is coming, and our role as Christians includes a lot of trusting and waiting?
2. Share stories of trees you may have helped to plant. What thoughts and feelings come to us as we plant something that takes a long time to mature?
3. Share other examples of things that take time to mature, but are well worth waiting for.
4. What does our impatience reveal about us?
5. What is good about patience? Can we ever become too patient?

Read Mark 4: 26 - 34

1. What does the man who planted the seed have to do to make the plant grow? How do you feel about this?
2. Jesus went on to speak of an over-grown mustard tree, whereas we know that a mustard tree would not really be the largest tree in the garden. What might Jesus have been trying to convey by making this claim?
3. What is the nature of the kingdom of God? Give examples of where you see it growing or coming.
4. What attitudes and actions would the parable of the mustard seed engender in the life of the Christian?
5. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his followers to seek first the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:33). He presents this as an antidote to anxiety! Explore what it means in practice to seek God's kingdom first.