

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

## Welcome

- When it comes to gardening, what are your greatest triumphs and worst failures?

## Worship

- Read Psalm 65 together.
- Thank God together for the fruitfulness of the earth.

## Word

### **Read Matthew 13: 1 - 9**

- Why does Jesus teach from a boat?
- What do you make of the approach of the sower? What do we learn about the gospel from this?
- What do you make of the return from the good soil in verse 8? What do we learn about the gospel from this?

### **Read Matthew 13: 11 - 17**

- The disciples ask a good question in verse 10. What do you make of Jesus' answer? Discuss why Jesus spoke in parables.

*Who is ready to receive the gospel? On the one hand, Jesus invites **any** who are weary to rest in him (11:28). On the other we are told **not** to cast pearls before pigs (7:6). Some people are just not spiritually aware, so to explain spiritual things to them is counter-productive.*

- In view of this, why are parables such a smart way of communicating spiritual truths?

### **Read Matthew 13: 18 - 23**

- Discuss why some people don't seriously consider the gospel.
- Discuss why some might receive the gospel, but fall away if it makes them unpopular.
- Discuss why some allow anxiety or wealth to choke their faith.

## Response

- Find a way of sharing the gospel with someone this week even if you think they may be uninterested.
- Pray that your own heart may be good soil for the gospel seed to grow in.