

DIRT



THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS

#mc3dirt



Discussion
Gu'de

“SHALLOW DIRT”

04/10/16

The Point:

Shallow Dirt: Don't Be Deceived, Following Jesus is Hard

Discussion Generators

PLEASE share the announcements (on FB thread) with your group!

- ➔ **STOP and DO THIS!** It's been a month since your group has met—what has God been doing during that time? Go around your group and share your God Moments of how you have seen God working, either in your life or in the life of another, over the past month.
 - Be looking for how you see God working, to share next time.

 - What has stood out to you so far from the *Dirt* Point series?

 - ➔ Read Mark 4:3-8, 14-20. Reviewing the Point, what was the problem with the seeds planted in shallow dirt (v. 5-6)?
 - ➔ What did the shallow dirt and sun represent (v. 16-17)?

 - Have you known someone who seemed to be “on fire” for Jesus, yet “fell away” during hard times? How did you feel about that?

 - Read 2 Timothy 3:12 & John 16:33. What surprised you the most (good or bad) when you first started following Jesus?
 - Obviously Jesus *told* us that it's hard (John 16:33), but what are the advantages when we “Go Real”* with others about the message of Jesus?
- *someone who was in the Point may need to explain this

- Read *Barnabas & Paul*. How did Barnabas "Go Long"* with Paul?
- Do you have a *Barnabas* in your life, that is walking alongside you as you follow Jesus? Do you have a *Paul* in your life that you are helping as they follow Jesus?
- If not, what is keeping you from "going long" with others?

→ What does 2 Timothy 2:15 explain about "tending the soil" in our own hearts? How does Hebrews 5:12-14 add to the importance of this?

→ According to Hebrews 10:24-25, what is another "tool" that we have to help "tend the soil" in our hearts?

→ While we are GUARANTEED assurance of being with Jesus if we believe (Eph. 1:13-14), what are ways that the church [the people, not the building or organization] can help keep us from "falling away"?

→ [Pr'me Leaders: Get a piece of paper/notecard/post-it note for each person in your group OR plan to write down the list and e-mail/FB message/text it to everyone in your group]

Last week we talked about removing distractions that are hindering our growth with Jesus. Have each person in your group share which one of the following is a distraction that they need to remove, then how they plan to do it. Write down each person's distraction on your paper, then pray for each person & distraction on that list at least twice throughout this next week:

- The Bad Distractions. Read Matthew 18:8-9
- The Good Distractions. Read Hebrews 12:1
- The Slick* Distractions. Read Mark 3:1-6

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Bible Verses

Mark 4:3-8, 14-20 (NLT) *selected verses, read full passage in Bible

Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died...

...The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

John 16:33 (NIV)

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Barnabas & Paul: Acts 9:26-27; 11:25-26; 13:2-3 *read passages in Bible

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

Hebrews 5:12-14 *too long to print, read passage in Bible

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.