

a. They need _____
from their messes.

James 1:2-4 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

- The things in life that stink the most can actually cause us to grow.

REACHING OUR CITY ONE LIFE AT A TIME

1. Pursue ONE unbeliever and become the best friend they've ever had.
2. Reach ONE person every DAY with a random act of kindness.
3. Minister to ONE person every WEEK you attend church.
4. Bring ONE new person to church every MONTH.
 - Statistics show 82% will say "yes" if invited by a friend or family member to church.
5. Lead ONE person to Jesus every YEAR and disciple them.

*All scripture is the NLT unless otherwise noted.

Christmas Weekend Service Times:

Woodmen:

Sunday: 10 and 11:30

Christmas Eve: 1, 2:30, and 4

South:

Sunday: 11:30

Christmas Eve: 4



Part 4: YOUR SEED & SOIL

12|16|18

- #MyRFCstory
- #MyMessToSuccess

MARK 4: THE FARMER & THE SEED

1. Our story is the _____.

Mark 4:14 The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others.

2. We are called to be seed sowers not soul
_____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

⁸The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. ⁹For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

3. The _____ of the seed is determined by the development of the soil.

Jeremiah 4:3b . . . "Plow up the hard ground of your hearts!
Do not waste your good seed among thorns.

SOIL SAMPLES

1. HARDENED FRIENDS

Mark 4:15 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.

- a. They need a _____ free zone.
- b. They need a slow drip of unconditional love.
- c. They need a friend they can _____.

2. _____ FRIENDS

Mark 4:16-17 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ 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.

- a. They need a _____ system.
- b. They need someone who _____ in them.
- c. They need someone who won't judge them when they revert to their old ways but will reach into the pit and pull them out . . . again.

Colossians 2:6-7 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

3. DISTRACTED FRIENDS

Mark 4:18-19 The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

- a. They need an _____ friend to speak the truth in love.

Proverbs 27:6 Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

- b. They need _____.
- c. They need encouragement.
- d. They need someone to keep them _____.

4. _____ FRIENDS

Mark 4:20 And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

- a. They need to be _____ and stretched.
- b. They need the implanted seed of God's Word.
- c. They need exposure to the _____.
- d. They need the living water of the Holy Spirit's power and influence.

John 7:38-39 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'³⁹(When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)